G. C. & GEORGIA A. BEARD.

Note dated April 6th, 1934, for $10,000.00, due August 6th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 16th, 1924, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	$10,000.00
Interest from 8-6-1934 to 1-1-1935	241.64
Total	$10,241.64

Your Commissioner reports that the liens of the Bank of Marlinton and G. C. and Georgia A. Beard are of equal dignity and are both secured by the same deed of trust, the Rockbridge National Bank of Lexington, Virginia, having assigned its lien by virtue of said deed of trust to G. C. and Georgia A. Beard.

Your Commissioner further finds that these liens are liens on all the real estate owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company and on all the personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company, on October 16th, 1924, and they are not liens on any personal property acquired by the Marlinton Hotel Company, subsequent to October 16th, 1924, or any replacements made by the Marlinton Hotel Company for personal property owned on the 16th day of October, 1924.

LIENS OF THE THIRD CLASS.

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK.

Note dated April 14th, 1934, for $5,360.00, with a credit of $60.00, due July 14th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 15th, 1926, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Chap. 4

Juanita Dilley

FORMATION OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

By the Act of the Virginia Legislature at Richmond assembled in 1821, Pocahontas County was formed of territory detached from the counties of Bath, Pendleton, and Randolph counties, with an area of 904 square miles Colonel John Baxter of Stony Creek was very active in bringing about the organization of the new county. Two counties were provided for. One to be named Alleghany, the other Pocahontas. The intention was to name the county embracing the crown of the Alleghanie Mountains "Alleghany," the other lower down Pocahontas, but owing to a clerical oversight the names were interchanged. Pocahontas was named for the Indian Princess who saved the life of John Smith

Information: W. Va. Blue Book.

oOo

FIRST COURT IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY

March 5, 1822 was a very important day for the county, for it was on that day that the first county court was held at the residence of John Bradshaw at Huntersville. John Bradshaw was the founder of Huntersville, and always took an active part in all its affairs.

John Jordan, William Poage, James Tallman, Robert Gay, John Baxter, George Burner, and Benjamin Tallman were present and handed in their commissions as Justices of the Peace, signed by Thomas Mann Randolph, Governor of Virginia.

Colonel John Baxter administered the oath of office, each member qualified four times. The four oaths were:

To faithfully perform official duties Fidelity to the Commonwealth of Virginia. To support the National Constitution, To oppose duelling.

John Jordan was sworn in as high sheriff, giving $30,000 bond with Abram

and Isaac McNeel as bondsmen.

Josiah Beard was appointed clerk with $3,000 bond and Thomas Beard, George Poage and James Tallman, bondsmen.

Johnson Reynolds of Lewisburg was qualified as an attorney for the commonwealth.

Sampson L. Mathews was appointed Surveyor of Lands.

William Hughes - constable fot the Levels with $500 bond, and James Cooper - constable for the upper part of the county.

On the second day of this session of court Jonathan Jordan, son of John Jordan, appointed Deputy Sheriff.

James Callison, William Edmi[illegible]son, John Hill, John Cochran, Alexander Waddell, John (Little John) McNeill, Robert Moore, Martin Dilley, Benjamin Arbogast, William Sharp, William Hartman amd Joseph Walfenberger appointed overseers of roads.

Cyrus Curry from Lexington and Johnston Reynolds of Lewisburg were licensed to practice law as the first two members of the Pocahontas Bar.

Travis W. Perkins licensed to open a hotel.

Huntersville was designated as the county seat.

Information: Price's History and court records).

(The business of the third day was the organization of a state malitia, but I do not have my report on that quite completed.)

Feb. 13, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

Chapter 4- Section 4-

Pocahontas County was formed by an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, at Richmond, Feb. 5, 1822, of territory detached from the counties of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph. How the name was assigned to this county is not definitely known. There is no doubt but that it was named for the Indian Princess bearing that name. Thomas Mann Randolph, the Governor of the Commonwealth at the time the act forming the new county was passed, was a direct descendent of Princess Pocahontas, and he may have named the county in honor of his kinswoman. Tradition has it that about the time this county was formed, two counties were provided for; one ; to be named Pocahontas and the other Allegheny. The intention was to name the county embraced in the territory on the top of the mountains "Allegheny" and, the one farther down toward the sea "Pocahontas", but for some reason the names were interchanged.

Justices designated to act; John Jordin, Wm. Poage,Jr. James Tallman, Robert Gay, George Poage, Benjamin Tallman, John Baxter, and George Burner.

They met at the house of John Bradshaw, at Huntersville, March 5, 1822, the day appointed for that purpose.

John Jordin was commissioned by his excellency, Thos. Mann Randolph, Governor of Virginia, as the first sheriff who entered into bond in penalty of $30,000 with Abraham McNeel and Isaac McNeel as his sureties.

Josiah Beard was appointed Clerk and qualified with

Thomas Beard, George Poage, and James Tallman as his sureties.

Joshua Reynolds was appointed Attorney for the Commonwealth.

Sampson L. Mathews was appointed surveyor.

Robert Gay was appointed Commissioner of Revenue for 1822, and qualified and entered into bond with William Cackley, and John Baxter as sureties.

In 1822 the following persons were recommended to the Governor for appointment for military service.

Benjamin Tallman	Lieutenant Colonel
Wm. Blair	Major
Boon Tallman	Captain of Cavalry
Andrew G. Mathews	First Lieutenant
Benjamin Wallace	Second Lieutenant

Wm. Arbogast, Henry Herold, Isaac Moore, and Milburn Hughes as Captains of Militia.

Robert Warwick	
William Moore	
William Young	Lieutenant in Militia
James Rhea	Lieutenant in Militia

Jacob Slaven, James Wanless, Samuel Young, and James Callison, as Ensigns in the Militia.

Abraham McNeel	Appointed Coroner

The first Grand Jury:

Samuel Daugherty, (Foreman)	John Moroney
George Kee	John Johnson
Joseph Friel	James Grimes
James Bridger	Samuel Waugh

Henry Herold
John Grimes
William Blair
Samuel Hogshead
William McNeel
Lanty Lockridge
Abraham Seabord

James Lewis
Moses Hughes
Wndrew Edmiston
Isaac McNeel
John Moore
Jonathan Griffin

First Indictments:

David H. Smith, assault and battery

Josiah Beard, obstructing public roads.

Ludivicus Robins, a Presbyterian minister, was the first minister to authorize the rites of matrimony.

May Term 1824:

Wm. S. Ferrell licensed to practice law in the county.

Courthouse in Hunterville built in 1824.

May term 1826:

The Court proceeded to fix rates:

Ordinaries

French Brandy	by	the	½	pint	.....25¢
Whiskey	"	"	"	"	.....12½¢
Rum	"	"	"	"	.....25¢
Apple Brandy	"	"	"	"	.....12½¢
Bounce	"	"	"	"	.....18¾¢
Peach Brandy	"	"	"	"	.....18¾¢
Wines	"	"	"	"	.....25¢
Diet by the meal					.....25¢
Grain by the gallon					.....12½¢
Hay for 24 hours					.....12½¢
Lodging					.....12½¢

September 24:

Peter McCain, undertaker of Public buildings.

November 1822:

Levi Moore, Benjamin Tallman, George Poage, Abraham McNeel, Jacob W. Mathews, and William Cackley, commissioned to let out contract for public buildings.

May Term 1822:

Levi Moore, Jacob W. Mathews, William Cackley, George Pocage, Abraham McNeel, Benjamin Tallman, appointed commissioners to advertise for bids for erection of a brick Court house, brick Clerks Office, and brick jail.

June 1822:

To be appropriated toward public buildings: $655.50

June 1823:

To be appropriated toward public buildings: 1114.83

June 1824:

To be appropriated for public buildings: 1114.83

Total $2885.16

Additional work on public Buildings: 325.00

3210.16

Sheriffs 1872:

W. L. McNeel

W. H. Cackley

January 1, 1885 to 1889:

R. S. Turk	Prosecuting attorney
J. C. Arbogast	Sheriff

Judges:

First Term of Circuit Superior Court held Oct. 3, 1831.

Archibald Stewart		1822	to	1831
Allen Taylor	Oct.	1831	to Oct.	1836
John J. Allen	"	1836	" "	1840
Edward Johnson	"	1840	" Sept	1853
Robt. M. Hudson	Sept.	1853	" "	1861

No court from Sept. 1861 to Nov. 1865.

N. Harrison	Nov.	1865	"	Apr. 1870
J. M. McWhorter	Apr.	1870	"	May 1873
H. A. Holt	May	1873	"	Jan. 1889
A. N. Campbell	Jan.	1889	" "	1897
J. M. McWhorter	"	1897	" "	1904
W. R. Bennett	"	1904	" "	1911
Chas. S. Dice	"	1911	"	Mar. 1917
S. H. Sharp	Mar.	1917	" "	1936
Mark Jarrett	"	1936		

Clerks:

Josiah Beard		1822	to	June 1831
H. M. Moffett	June	1831		
J. Tallman	May	1840	"	April 1842
H. M. Moffett		1842	"	May 1849
Wm. Skeen	"	1849	"	July 1858
Wm. Curry	July	1858	"	May 1865
Robert T. Gay	May	1865	"	Mar. 1867
A. L. McKeever	Mar.	1867		Jan. 1870
Robert T. Gay	Jan.	1871	" "	1873
Wm. Curry	"	1873	" "	1879
John J. Beard	"	1879	" "	1891
S. L. Brown	"	1891	" "	1909

C. J. McCarty	Jan.	1909	to	Jan.	1915
S. L. Brown	"	1915	"	"	1934
C. M. Kincaid		1934			

CIRCUIT CLERKS OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

Henry M. Moffett

Appointed clerk for Pocahontas County, Virginia, on the 23rd day of May, 1831, by Allen Taylor, one of the Judges of the General Superior Court for Botetourte, Allegheny, Bath, Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties. Resigned Oct. 2, 1839.

James Tallman.

Appointed Clerk for Pocahontas County, Virginia, on the 2nd day of October, 1839, by Judge John J. Allen. Died in office March 3, 1842.

William Skeen

Clerk Pro-tem from March 3, 1842 until May 2, 1842.

Henry M. Moffett.

Appointed Clerk for Pocahontas County, Virginia, on the 2nd day of May, 1842, by Judge Edw. Johnson. Resigned May 2, 1848.

William Skeen

Appointed Clerk May 2, 1848 for Pocahontas County, Va., by Judge Edw. Johnson. Served until July 13, 1858.

William Curry

Elected Clerk for Pocahontas County, Virginia, May 27, 1858. Served from July 13, 1858 until August 17, 1865.

Robert T. Gay

Appointed Clerk by Judge N. Harrison, for Pocahontas County, West Virginia on August 17, 1865. Served until Oct. 14, 1872.

William Curry

Elected Clerk August 22, 1872. Served from October 14, 1872 until December 12, 1878.

John J. Beard.

Elected October 8, 1878. Served from Dec. 12, 1878 until January 1, 1891.

J. H. Patterson

Elected November 4, 1890. Served from January 1, 1891 until October 4, 1907. Died in Office.

J. G. Tilton

Appointed to fill the unexpired term of J. H. Patterson by Judge W. R. Bennett on October 15, 1907. Served until his successor qualified January 1, 1909.

G. W. Sharp

Elected November, 1908. Re-elected November 1914. Served until January 1, 1921.

D. C. Adkison

Elected November 1920. Served until 1936.

Kerth Nottingham

Elected 1932. Resigned 1936.

Richard McNeel

Appointed 1936 to fill unexpired term of Kerth Nottingham.

Grady Moore

Elected 1938.

John Baxter

Appointed April 2, 1822, Clerk of the Superior Court of Law for Pocahontas County, Virginia, By Judge Archibald Stewart. Bond $30,000.00, with Abraham McNeel, William Edmiston, Andrew Edmiston and William Cackley as sureties

Pocahontas Co

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

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Research Worker Samuel G Smith Date Research Taken 8/27,28,29/41

Typist Samuel G Smith Date Typed 8/30/41

Source Rella F Yeager Hillsboro.W.Va. Date Filed

C.W Price Marlinton W.Va. and an old issue of Pocahontas Times
Nancy A McNeill Buckeye.W.Va.

County Government.Chapter X-

Samuel G Smith Hillsbo ro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

Old records show that according to assessment in pioneer days that horses were more plentiful than today and records of Bath County Virginia show for the year of I782 when Pocahontas was a part of Bath that under George Poage district assessor he listed 80 head of horses for Jacob Warwick,William Warwick 22 head and Alexander Dunlap 44 head.In I79I when Bath County was organized,Samuel Vance was the first assessor of the first district ~~XX~~ which included the upper end of Pocahontas County of today and known today as Greenbank District.At that time there were only 476 taxable people listed owning I376 horses,4 carriages,and I32 slaves, the roads in this section of the county at that time were mere Indian trails,and had to be widened to permit the use of a vehicle,as the first settlers were more concerned about establishing homes and keeping track of the Indians that were so plentiful in this section,as the Indians or Red Man had layed out the many trails that were used by our first settlers,as the first trails were known as bridle paths as the usual mode of travel was on horseback and the packsaddle being the usual mode of transporting goods.For long generations the Indians had followed the same paths beating them smooth and deep in the forest earth,then came our first settlers and he to used these trails but had to widen and straighten many of them.

It appears that there had been no surveying done prior to I780 but aft-

County Government. Chapter X-

30/41

Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

er this date many tracts were surveyed and titles obtained as the records of Augusta County Va. show, these first tracts were secured by land grants or patents and this was about 1750 to 51 as this is when the oldest settlement ofwhat is now Pocahontas County was made, this by Stephen Sewell and Jacob Marlin and this settlement went by the name of Marlin's Bottom until 1887 when it became Marlinton which is the county-seat.

The early settlers of what is Pocahontas today would make a round trip to Richmond in six weeks, they would take a load of venison and maple sugar over and trade it in Richmond for produce that the pioneers needed, and in the years that followed they went to Staunton to do their trading this trip could be made in some eight or ten days, when one of these trips were made as much legal business as could be was attended to as the distance was long and the trails steep and rough.

There were no schools in this section prior to 1780 and very few after that time for many years, what few schools we had after this date were mostly pay schools and the classes held in some old abandoned building which would be chinked, and daubed with mud which had the open fire place, and greased paper for window lights, the benches of split logs, with pins bored in for legs, the patrons paid the teachers on a percapita basis.

the people of that age said all their children needed was to learn to read right,cypher,read the bible and be taught citizenship,the latter was of great value as these people were settling a new country which had to almost entirely enforce what law they had and keep the peace and dignity of the new settlement that finally became Pocahontas County in the rugged hills of West Augusta and now the West Virginia Hills.

Information Rella F Yeager Hillsboro.W.Va.

C.W Price Marlinton.W.Va. and parts taken from the Pocahontas Times of an old issue on county history.

Nancy A McNeill.Buckeye.W.Va.

Preston-105

West Virginia Writers' Project

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Source Calvin Price Marlinton W.Va. Date Filed
G.D & John C McNeill Buckeye.W.Va.
W.G McKeever.Buckeye.W.Va.

Information very hard to get,requiring lots of time.

Chapter X County Government--

Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

According to some of our older folks that remember history the taxes collected from the population that is now Pocahontas did little good anywhere as we were in so many counties at that time that the amount collected by each county was so small that it cost most of it to make the collections, and the Virginia Board of Public Works hardly knew we existed,in those days the only tax collected was on personal property and on real estate,as they had no capitation tax as we do today and the road tax was worked out on the roads around over the terretory on the western waters,each man received a notice when and where he was to work and this was the way they kept most of the roads up at that time,and prior to I82I there was very little if any improvements on the western side of the Alleghenys.

Prior to the formation of Pocahontas County when an election was held only land owners voted and a majority of the population was Jeffersonian Democrats and the minority party was known as Whigs which in later years came to power.Prior to the formation there was no school tax collected as there were no public schools,only pay private ones and according to Prof.G.D McNeill one of the first of these teachers was Big John McNeill a Great grandfather of the present John McNeill of Buckeye.

As to roads and taxation we had only a few trails that in later years were improved and made into our better roads shortly after the form-

County Government.S.G.S Pocahontas Co.----

ormation of the county,they were very little needed and they were mere trails save for the main roads leading through what is now Pocahontas County and the side roads were just mere paths or trails so to speak,and the were kept up by the people of each locality by work rather than by taxon,as the law at that time fixed it so that once each year the population each particular section were called out to work the roads.

The houses at this time were mostly made of logs from the virgin forand today upon making a visit to consult John McNeill of the Swago sec- I found a house made entirely of logs built in 1813 by Big John Mc- and occupied at this time by a John C McNeillX this house has a chimome 15 or 16 feet across at the time this house was built Big John McN- s not only a teacher but an Indian Herb Doctor traveling about over ire western waters teaching and giving aid with his herbs.

There were no public schools until after the formation of the county chools were built on the eastern side of the mountain,all public s erected there and through this practice is what led to the formatnew county as the people as a whole thought they were not getting al in the distribution of tax money and what it was spent for,and without representation is what led to the formation of Pocahontas it becoming a part of West Virginia and known at that time as West

County Government.S.G.S Pocahontas Co.-----

rmation of the county,they were very little needed and they were mere trails save for the main roads leading through what is now Pocahontas County and the side roads were just mere paths or trails so to speak,and these were kept up by the people of each locality by work rather than by taxation,as the law at that timt fixed it so that once each year the population of each particular section were called out to work the roads.

The houses at this time were mostly made of logs from the virgin forest and today upon making a visit to consult John McNeill of the Swago section I found a house made entirely of logs built in 1813 by Big John McNeill and occupied at this time by a John C McNeillX this house has a chimney some 15 or 16 feet across at the time this house was built Big John McNeill was not only a teacher but an Indian Herb Doctor traveling about over the entire western waters teaching and giving aid with his herbs.

There were no public schools until after the formation of the county as all schools were built on the eastern side of the mountain,all public buildings erected there and through this practice is what led to the formation of a new county as the people as a whole thought they were not getting a fair deal in the distribution of tax money and what it was spent for,and this along without representation is what led to the formation of Pocahontas County and it becoming a part of West Virginia and known at that time as West Augusta.

County Government.S.G.S- Pocahontas County.

The events that led to the formation of a new county was the cause of the move and it was not for political reasons as it was not a political move in any respect,but was for the good of the people in general and not for just a few.

Most of the land on the western waters was granted by Augusta County Virginia and records to that affect are found at Staunton in grant book number I.In searching old records I found in the posession of A.W McNeill a decendant of one of the first settlers of Pocahontas County one was a deed made in April I796 granting Thomas McNeill a tract of land and signed by the governor of Virginia at Richmond Robert Brooke Governor this deed was written with a quill on buckskin or some sort of thin leather,the other was a deed from Bath County Virginia the clerks office to Jonathan McNeill to William McNeill in I8I8,the first was a land grant the latter a deed from one individual to another.

Information-Calvin Price Marlinton.W.Va.

G.D McNeill.Buckeye.W.Va.& John C McNeill Buckeye.W.Va.

W.G McKeever.Buckeye.W.Va.and from old deeds found in possession of A.W McNeill of Buckeye.W.Va.

Pocahontas-10-

West Virginia Writers' Project

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Source C.W Price & Court Records Date Filed

Marlinton.W.Va.

Rella E Yeager.Hillsboro.W.Va.

Hardestys History And Geographical Encyclopedia.

Standard Dictionary Of Facts.

AUG 1941
RECEIVED

County Government-Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Poca.County-

According to my informant Mr.C.W Price there was no political division in Virginia from which Pocahontas County came prior to I750 and according to Mr.Price the land comprising Pocahontas County came from many different counties of old Virginia as Agusta County with the county seat of Staunton was formed and the land made available in I722 in the treaty with the Indians at Albany this treaty dealt with the western waters of which we are now apart, or part of the county of Agusta. In I777 Botetourt was formed and ran to the mouth of Swago Creek and on the south on down the Greenbrier.Harrison County from Swago Creek north this was surveyed I785 and took in land from the head of Spice Run to Blennerhassett Island.The formation of Pendleton County was Arbovale now in the upper section of Pocahontas and took in all the land north.Randolph County was formed I792 and run from the Greenbrier line north to Beverley.Formation of Bath County was in I792,thus Pocahontas County was formed in Bath County to the Pendleton County line with Randolph County west of Alleghaney and Elk and Gauley valleys.The county seat prior to the formation of Pocahontas County was Staunton in Agusta County.

The people of the terretory now Pocahontas were very little dependant on their county government as it was so far away that they never visited it only to pay taxes,record a deed or secure a marriage license.A record of the

County Government.S.C.S Pocahontas Co.

etaurt County Court of 1774 excuses Charles Kinnison ~~from~~ jury duty because he lived beyond the droop, referring to our Droop Mountain here in Pocahontas County. Charles Cameron clerk of the Bath County Court lived at what is Dunmore at the present time in our county of Pocahontas.

The County court members were all Justices of the Peace and attended to all matters as they do today but met only 2 or 3 times each year. The farmers were very little concerned over the affairs of the Western Waters as they were busy trying to make a living and not so much interested in their county government as this section layed in so many different counties of old Virginia there was very little hopes for cooperation either by the farmers or the county in which they were a part at that time. And the Virginia board of Public works hardly knew we existed and at that time there was two political parties namely the Jeffersonish Democrats and the Whigs, and the laws passed by the Assembley did not show much concern for the people across the mountain or the ones on the Western waters that later became Pocahontas.

Information--Calvin W Price Marlinton.W.Va.
Hardestys History And Geographical Encyclopedia.
Court Records.

Pocahontas-10

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject County Government. Date 8/2/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith Date Research Taken July 30,31. Aug. 1

Typist Samuel G Smith Date Typed Aug.2.41

Source W.G McKeever Buckeye.W.Va. Date Filed

Rella F Yeager. Hillsboro.W.Va.

Hardesty's Historical & Geographical Encyclopedia.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT-SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO.W.VA.POCAHONTAS CO.

Pocahontas County lies in the extreme eastern portion of the state ,and is the southermost of what is known as the mountain tier of counties ,it is bounded on the North by Randolph County,Northeast by Pendleton East ans Southwest by Highland and Bath Counties,in old Virginia,South by Greenbrier and West by Greenbrier and Webster.The surface is mostly rough and mountainous ,and it is here that the traveler beholds lofty longitudial and transverse ranges ,trending to every point of the compass,and as he stands and gazes upon the scene spread out before him,he experiences that feeling of sublimity which ever ~~XXXXXX~~ impresses the traveler when surrounded by lofty mountains .Here he stands entranced with the picture of scenic grandeur spread out before him whose power reared those mighty masses around him and realizes that he who did it "caused a thousand worlds to be."

It was in the month of March in the year ~~XXX~~ 1821 that the general assembly of Virginia passed entitled an act to provide for the formation of a new county out of parts of Bath,Pendleton and Randolph,the area at this time was 760 square miles but in 1824 the southern boundary was changed thus taking a slice off of Greenbrier and increasing the area of Pocahontas to 820,this area of land was to be known as Pocahontas in memory of and in honor of the Indian princess of that name.

Prior to the formation of Pocahontas County the early settlers of the

estern side of the Alleghanie Mountains had to go to Warm Springs the County seat of which we were originally a part to pay their taxes,get a marriage license and attend to all legal matters,their only mode of travel being on foot or horseback and it being considerable distance was very unhandy so when the new county was made the county seat was established at Huntersville in Pocahontas thereby making their county government closer home and making everything very much more convenient for the settlers as they had to spend as much of their time as possible at home K making a living,clearing the ground,supplying the table with meat.Before the formation of the new county the sheriff of Bath County collected the takes,enforced the laws and kept order.Court was held at Warm Springs with the judge,attorneys and justices of that section and often it was impossible to locate the sheriff to look after affairs on the western side of the Alleghanysthis was very unsatisfactory to the settlers on this side so they began to talk a new county with a new county seat with their own local men as heads of the new county government.About all the attention given our people was on tax day and the money being spent on the Eastern side of the mountain and this did not suit the people of what was known as West Augusta at the time before the formation of the new county,this section being mountainous and settled by the sterdy people of old Virginia it appeared to the settlers that they were Not getting the

consideration they thought they should have so they began to work on the formation of the present county,but to accomplish this end some of the most influential men of this section had to spend considerable time negotiating with officials of old Virginia,this took place during James Monroes term as President of the United States he being a native son of Old Virginia.

Information-W.G McKeever.Buckeye.W.Va.
Rella F Yeager.Hillsboro. "
Hardesty's Historical & Geographical Encyclopedia.

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

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Research Worker Samuel G.Smith Date Research Taken 2/11,12,13,16/42

Typist Samuel G.Smith. Date Typed 2/16/42

Source County Court & Order Books Date Filed

Sheriffs Books-Marlinton.W.V a.

Just after the formation of the county in I82I the taxes were raised by assessing each male person over 2I years of age amounts varying from 25 cts, to well over a dollar according to population as they estimated how much it would take to run the county government then assessed each inhabitant of the county his proportionate part, this system was used for a number of years but as the county grew and more revinue was needed to run it a levy was layed so much on the one hundred dollars valuation of each property owner, this was sufficient until the county government expanded as it took more men to run it as the population grew as the population was greater, more people to protect, more records to keep, more roads to build and maintain, the levy was around $ 2,500.00 for many years but gradually raised from year to year until at the present time the taxpayers of Pocahontas County pay in the neighborhood of $ 7I,823. not counting public service tax & public Assistance the total expenditures of the county for I940 were $ 283.466.00n not counting

In I920 the General County Purpose estimate was $ 44,092,44 to be spent on the main highways or class A roads of the county. The total value of Pocahontas County in personal property in I920 was $ I4,697480 as shown by the assessment of that time, the amount to be raised by levy 26,743. besides the amounts to be raised for each district to be used on class B roads and otherwise, District road funds to be raised by Greenbank District was $ 8,4I853 and the value of the district was $ 4,206,265, for Edray District for road pur-

nty Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W.Va. Pocahontas Co. # 2.

ses $ 10,15804 value of the district $ 3,386016 for Huntersville District road purposes $ 5,11631 and a total value of the district 1,705438, for Little Levels for district road purposes $ 7,657.70 and the value of the district in personal property $ 2,552568. For 1921 the general county levy was 30 cents on each $ 100.00 valuation of last assessment, the county road fund levy order was 15 cts on the one hundred dollars valuation, this was for general county road purposes while the following was the figures fordistrict road purposes 15 cts on each one hundred dollars, besides the 20 cts additional for Greenbank District to meet her bonded indebtidness as they voted in 1920 - $ 260.000.00 road bond that had to be retired each year this is the only bonded indebtidness of any of the districts of the county.

In 1928 the general county purpose estimate-receipts 4.773 and the estimated disbursments by the county court that lays the county levy is $ 51,722,83 and the amount to be raised by levy $ 46.949,76 this amount was raised by a 30 cts on each 100.00 valuation of all taxible property within the county, the estimated receipts available for county road fund purposes $ 12,149.19 and tne estimated disbursments of $ 51.273,99 and the amount that the county court estimated that would have to be raised by levy was $ 39.124.80 this amount to be raised by a 25 ct rate on each 100.00 valuation and it was found that the total value of the county according to the last

ssessment was $ I5,649,920. the estimated receipts I,44I.4I and estimated disbursments $ 8,0I3.00 leaving the amount of $ 6,572.00 to be raised by levy at the rate of I5 cts on the I00.00 valuation these figures were for district road purposes which was divided as follows real estate $ I,889570,personal property $ I,0I98I0,public utility property $ I,47D958 or total value of Greenbank District $ 4,38I,338.

For Edray District the estimated receipts were $ 850.00 and the estimated disbursments were $ 66I5.00 leaving $ 5,764.00 to be raised by levy at I5 cents on the I00.00 valuation,the value of the Edray District was as follows real estate $ 2,740,I80.00 personal property $ 700,250.00,utility $ 402,520.00 or a total value for Edray District of $ 3,842,950.00 Huntersville District estimated receipts 84.00 estimated disbursments $ 3099.00 leaving $ 30I5.00 to be raised by levy at I5 cent rate on real estate valued at I,072780 personal property 466,050 and public utility 47I,343.00 or a total of 2,0I0,I73 for the value of the district. Little Levels District estimated.receipts I,252.00 and the estimated disbursments 5,I04.00 leaving $ 3,852.00 to be raised by levy at the I5 ct,rate,the total value of the real estate in Little Levels in I928 was I598,690 personal property 468,880 and public utilities 500,743 or a total value for the district of $ 2,568.3I3

The road bond and sinking fund estimate to meet the intrest on the

Date Research Taken 2/17,18,19,20/42

Date Typed 2/27/42

County Government.S.G.S.-Pocahontas Co. Page 4--.

$ 260.000.00 road bond of the Greenbank District that was voted by the people of that district in I920 was $ I5,I50.00 to pay intrest and so much on the principal so they could retire this bond at the set time their rate was 30 cts on each I00.00 valuation as follows real estate $ 2,I9I,460.00 personal property $ I,524,I70.00 Public Utilities $ I,5 78I.44 or a total taxable value for the district of $ 5292.774.00 .

The General County levy for I932-33 county road fund levy order 25 cts on each I00.00,the amount to be raised to construct and maintain roads in the county was $ 26,2I6.00 and the district road levies were as follows Greenbank District $4,730.00 at I5 cts on the hundred,Edray District $ 3,925.00,Huntersville District $ I,78I.00 and Little Levels $ 2,300.00 all at the rate of I5 cts on the hundred,at this time Greenbank District had to raise $ I4,350.00 to apply on their bonded indebtidness also the county had to lay a special levy of 2 cts to go toward the running of the Pocahontas County Memorial Hospital,this meant they had to raise $ 2000.00 the hospital having been taken over by the county after 20% of the legal voters signed a petition asking for such action by the County Court at that time,aside from this a special levy of I½ was added to take care of the county Agents salary that was paid by the county the remainder of his salary is and was paid by the state.

After the passage of the Tax Limiation Amendment in 1932 we had 4 classes of property each having a different rate Class # I) was all tangible employed exclusively for agricultural purposes including livestock,all moneys,notes,bonds and stocks of all kinds and all other intangible personal property.# 2) was all real estate.# 3) Real estate,personal property and public utilities.# 4) Real estate,personal property and public utilities defined as follows # 1) all residential property in municipalities and all real estate outside of munisipalities used for agriculture purposes.

2) all automobiles,trucks,tractors used commercially outside of munisipalities.# 3) also all real estate outside municipalities used commercially also mineral and timber.# 4)all rented property,trucks,automobiles and etc. located inside municipalities or any property used commercially.The rate is as follows # I-Class ½ct,# 2-I ct.# 3)-2 cts and # 4-2 cts.The limit any district can go is the following for Class # I-not to exceed 50 cts,# 2 not to exceed $ I.00 # 3 not above $ I.50 and Class # 4-I.50 to raise the levy above these figures means that it will have to be voted on by at least 60% of the voters of the county and state.The present rate in the various districts are as follows for LIttle Levels,Huntersville and Edray District they have the same 33.3 cts while Greenbank has that rate plus I4 cts to take care of their bonded indebtidness.

Information County Court Order books & Sheriff Books court House.Marlinton W.Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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W.Va.Blue Books 1935 to 40.

nty Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.# I-

In 1918 the county levy was $ 239.277.00 with Public Service tax collected of $ 47.011.00 or a total expended by our county of $ 242.859.00 with a balance in the county treasury of $ 101.135.00. In 1923 the County Levy was $ 379.419.00 Public Service tax collected $ 68,797.00 and the total expenditures of the county for that year was $ 398,525.00 with a balance in the treasury of the county of $ 59,000.00. In 1928 the County Levy was $ 467,418.00 and a public service tax collected of $ 86,789.00 with total expenditures for the county of $ 415,566.00 with a balance carried over in to the next year of $ 51,809.00. No doubt this was the most taxes Pocahontas County ever collected by levy to run the county government, the population of the county were staggering under the tax load they had to carry and something had to be done if the county was to continue to grow and develop its' resources and function properly, so in 1932 T.C Townsend the Republican nominee for governor had the tax limitation amendment put before the voters of the state and it carried by a very large majority but he failed in being elected, but this amendment meant more to the people of Pocahontas County than any legislation enacted within the state in many years, as this distributed our taxes to be collected over a broader level and a fairer distribution so that property used for agricultural purposes alone had a lower rate than property that was inside municipalities that was rented, or any property not used for agricultural purposes.

In I932 when the Tax Limitation Amendment was voted on by the expayers of Pocahontas County little did they know how much they were to be benefitted by it.The farmers of the county were benefitted more than any other people,as it shifted a greater part of their tax burden to other groups or individuals that up until that time had paid a very small part of the taxes collected in the county.In I934 instead of the county levy being forthex the large amounts it had been in the precee-ding years the county levy was for $ 72,282.00 and the public service tax amounted to $ 34,I46.00 and the total expenditures of the county were $ 309,889.00 with a balance of $ 63,649.00.

Up until that time it had taken from 25 to $ 30.000.00 to take care of the poor and dependent of the county but in I933 when the State and County Department Of Public Assistance began to function this amount was taken over by the state all but I5 % that was ~~xx~~ taken care of by ~~Xx~~ Pocahontas County,but as a depression was on many families were forced to apply for help so this load grew until in I939 the amount spent in Pocahontas County to assist the needy was $ 52,000.00 not counting administrative cost.

The consumers sales tax enacted in I932 of 2% that is collected by the state,goes mostly to the school fund in I935 the amount collected was $ I3,049.00 in the years that followed this tax doubled and more until

in 1940 they collected $ 34,356.00 but this was a slight decrease to what had been collected since this consumers tax law was passed but as business conditions began to improve and the wage earner had more to spend this fund increased considerably,this or a greater part of it comes back from Charleston to pay our school teachers,thus lifting this burden from the shoulders of our heaviest tax payers to the shoulders of the ones that heretofore paid little or no taxes,thus they contributed very little toward the expenses of our county government until this tax law was passed.In broadening our tax plans we have what use to have to be raised by county levy but which is raised otherwise now,in these classes of taxation we have the Consumers Sales Tax,The Inheritance tax,gross sales tax,taxes collected by the Internal Revenue Department and others.

The growth and development of our county has been brought about by taxation,for it was taxation that brought about our free School system where by all children could receive a free school education and prepare themselves for the tasks awaiting them on the farm,in our banks, our churches,in our schools and administering our county affairs.Therefore taxes fairly destributed and collected and wisely spent means a County Government performing a task for its' citizens that cannot be br-

ought about any other way.

Through taxation Pocahontas County has expanded in many,many ways as we have a good county government working for and with the people of the county,a school system surpassed by none,and buildings of the best while our Courthouse and jail are among the best built some time ago and only surpassed by ones built recently throughout the state,we have a vast road system as every section of the county has roads over which our citizens travel daily performing the tasks they have to do,we have have law enforcement bodies performing their work nobly all these and many more are the things that has caused our county to prosper and make it a good county in which to live,a county government of the people,by the people and for the people.Built with toil and sweat which was given by our pioneers in the infancy of the county that we today might have a county government of a democratic form that would stand the test and be in the end a guide for our people to follow and continue our American way of life,that we here in Pocahontas County might live our lives and contribute from time to time in any way we can to the advancement of mankind,All of which is brought about directly or indirectly by taxation,as our county like our state and nation has been built and maintained by taxation of some sort.

Information.County Records.Sheriffs Office.Marlinton.W.Va.
W.Va.Blue Books.1935 to 40.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro...Va. Pocahontas Co. # I.

At the time of the formation of Pocahontas County in 1821 very little if any money was needed, therefore taxation was given little if any thought by the pioneers that settled the upper part of the Greenbrier valley and the tax that was collected at that time was collected equally among the tithable persons within the borders of the county, as a young man with no property had to pay the same as the man with a farm and stock, this may have been alright at first but as farms were established and the production of livestock began to grow this was not a fair means of raising taxes so the people begun to talk and in a short time it was thought advisable to appoint an Assessor to go about over the County and list all property, and in this way all paid some taxes but the larger stock and land owners gradually started paying on what they had.

All the tax money needed about 1821 to 1865 was to pay the salaries of our county officials, which at that time amounted to only a few hundred dollars, but as the county grew both in population and wealth it gradually took more revinue to run it, as each year some office was added or some improvements had to be done for the betterment and growth of the county, so in a course of time the county government was functioning properly and effeciently with a minimum cost to the citizens within her borders, it was run with a gradual rise in taxation until about 1890 to 1900

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at which time it had begun to raise rapidly as more and better roads had to be built and maintained, we had to have more educational facilities to meet the needs of this fast expanding county,and it was in ~~xx~~ this period that the county seat was removed from Huntersville to its' present location,these new county buildings all cost money that was raised by taxation.The period between 1890 and 1915 might be termed the prosperity period for it was about that time that most of our timber was manufactured,with payrolls for our people,the tax burden being carried in a large degree by the many operators and manufacturers that came in from outside the county,as they helped build our roads,finance our schools and in many instances contributed school buildings in order that their employees might educate their children in these lumbering towns at home.

No doubt the tax burden of Pocahontas County would have been greater had it not been for these men to operate our greatest natural resources,paying high taxes and contributing in other ways toward maintaining our county government.And so it was when our timber had all been operated and these men had moved out that our tax load became very heavy for it took about the same amount of money to operate our county affairs and sources of revinue were not available only on our land and livestock and so we went along at this rate for many years but the load was getting very

heavy and the taxpayers were so to speak staggering from the load,and something had to be done to relieve the situation,as many farmers were being sold out largely on account of their gross income not being suffecient to meet current expenses,cost of living and pay the high rate of taxes they were forced to pay,this was especially true with the farmer of which a greater part of the population consisted of farmers,xx as this same condition existed throughout the state,taxation was discussed pro and con until 1932 when the people of the county and state voted upon one of the most vital questions,taxation and The Tax Limitation Amendment which carried by a large majority in the county and state thus relieving to a large degree our tax burden,but in order to make up this revinue other measures had to be passed whereby advisable as a source of revinue collected by the state and a percent returned to the county in which it was raised namely the Consumers sales tax and others,thus the change from our old tax system to our present system.Under the present tax system the population of Pocahontas as whole are very well satisfied,as the farmer that paid around $ 100.00 under the old tax law pays about half as much and the fellow that use to pay no taxes at all is contributing his share of taxes that goes to finance our county in some way or other.Instead of all our money being raised by levy a part of it is collected on the sale of

County Government. Samuel C. Smith. Pocahontas Co. # 4.

...eries and other products that are sold not counting inheritance tax and others which help to make up the revenue with which to operate both local county and state and federal government.

Information. Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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COUNTYX Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

Pocahontas County from the very beginning has been noted for its fertile soil,its healthy climate and its good county government therefore many outside people have migrated here,some for their health others seeking to establish a home while others came for employment and so in I847 many people from outside the western waters began to come in and among them were Cornelius and Nicholas Stulting and John Vanrenan who were born in Utrich one of the states of Holland,they all came to the United States in I847 and were born in Holland in I790,I82I and I804 respectively,locating in Pocahontas County in I847 and at the same time became citizens after first being passed upon by the court of our county,these men brought with them the many ways and doings of their father country and after settling within our borders taught the settlers to be thrifty and energetic citizens.

In I852 William J Wooddell was elected Sheriff of the county with Allen C.Burner and John A.Holden as his deputies this was for a two year term Thomas Hill was again selected as commissioner of the revinue for another term.Thomas A.Bradford was elected attorney for the commonwealth by this court for a four year term beginning July I.I852.William Skeen was elected Clerk of the County Court for a term of 6 years starting July I.I852.About this time the rate of pay on the county roads was raised to 75 cts per day. and so the county levy was somewhat higher as it was I006.26 to be collected

...om 1037 tithables.At this time the court decided best to classify the Justices that were to hold court for November 1852 and they were Justices Buckley, McLaughlin and Burner class # 2 was to be held by Hill, Baxter,and Gammon for March term 1853.Class # 3 was to be held by Hudson,Rhea, and Gay June term 1853.# 4 Wanless,Bruffey and Gilliland for August term 1853.# 5 held by Justices Warwick, Lockridge and Kerr for the November term 1853 .

The only place for crazy people at that time was at the lunatic Assylum located at Staunton Virginia and so any one that went crazy on this side of the Alleghany Mountain was sent by the court of Pocahontas County to this institution for treatment.Henry M Moffett who had served as Clerk of the court for many years died about 1851,he having accumulated quite a fortune at that time and his son had to give bond to the amount of 40.000.00 to settle the estate.

In 1852 the county was districted and the following men served on the districting board George Edmiston 6 days at 2.00 total 1200 , Wm.Cochran 6 days or 12.00,Hugh McLaughlin 3 days or 6.00 and Solomon Arbogast 2 days or 4.00 or a total of 34.00 paid these men for their services in districting the county.Pocahontas County has many streams and it was about this time that the court had a majority of these streams bridged,this was all authorized by the court and paid by the Sheriff of the Co-

unty.It was unlawful for a free negro to run at large without proper registrationfurnished by the court.

William Curry is chosen deputy clerk for William Skeen.Patrick Bruffey one of the pioneers in our county government died and his son William was chosen to fill the vacancy as justice for district # 4.A list of delinquent land taxes for 1852 amounting to $ 79.17,personal property 6.4 and capitation tax delinquincies of $ 18.28.

Court records show the men serving on the court that inspected the records from July.1.1852 to August.1 1853.Paul McNeel attended court 17 settings at $ 3.00 a setting or a total of $ 51.00

George Burner attended 4 days $ 12.00.Patrick Bruffey 4 days 12.00.David W.Kerr 6 days 18.00.Elijah Hudson 6 days 18.00.William T.Gammon 6 days 18.00. James T.Lockridge 4 days 12.00.William Baxter 7 days 21.00Josiah Buckley 4 days 12.00.Levi Manless 8 days 24.00.John W.Warwick 4 days 12.00.Michael B.Gilliland 5 days 15.00.Archibald Rhea 4 days 12.00.John Gay 7 days 21.00.Abraham Hill 4 days 12.00.Hugh McLaughlin 9 days 27.00. William S.Bruffey 1 day 3.00 or a total of 100 days and 300.00.

By an order of the court a grandjury shall be chosen for terms of court June and November and the number to be drawn was to be 16.At a census taken in Pocahontas County in 1850 it was found that we had a population of 3,000 white people and from this was chosen 60 persons that were

inhabitants of the county and duly qualified to act as jurymen as required by an act of the General Assembley.The county levy was layed for 1853 with the bounty on Red Foxes at 1.00 Grays 50 cts,Black Bear 1.00 and Wild Cats 1.00 the amount of the levy was $ 1,118.34.At the July term 1854 the levy was for $ 1,809.50 The levy for 1855 was for $ 2,419. much of which was spent in surveying and establishing the county lines.The levy of 1856 was for $2,650,30 this was to be collected from all males 16 years or older this included all colored people over 16 also.The levy for 1857 was $ 2,377.99 and the one for 1858 was for $ 2400.00.

About 1853 it was decided by the court that it was advisable to buy a poor farm to be used to care for the less fortunate and a committee was appointed by the court to select a farm for not less than $ 2,000.00 nor more than $ 3,000.00 those appointed to serve were William J.Wooddell,John Gay,Daniel McLaughlin and George M.G Edmiston these gentlemen were to make a survey and report back to the court at a later date.

William J.Wooddell was again chosen Sheriff of Pocahontas County with Isaac McNeel,John S.Wooddell and James F.Holden as his deputies and the following term of sheriff was held by John S,Wooddell as William J.Wooddell had resigned as Sheriff.Johns deputies were James Holden and Amos Barlow.For the year of 1856 it cost the county $ 655.00 to care for the

poor of the county.Among the many duties of the overseers of the poor was to bind out dependant children in good homes and if possible teach them a trade like tanning,saddelry and any other trade they might be able to take up.until they were 21 years of age.

It was in the year of 1854 that the first books were bought to register births,deaths and marriages in this custom still prevails in the county and in 1856 they recorded 160 births, and 24 deaths,this work was performed by the commissioner of the revinue but was over and above his regular duties and for 1856 he received $ 5.02 for his services for which he received $ 200.00 .James E.Moore was chosen commissioner of revinue July 1858. John Wamp serving the term before Moore.

Delinquent land tax for 1854 was $ 154.90 and the time spent by the court was 57 days.At this time grandjurymen were paid 1.00 a day and petit jurors paid .50 a day .It was in April 1856 that the sheriff ordered poll books to be used for the first time in the presidential election.

Thomas Hill was elected Assessor March 10.1865 with William T.Gammon as his assistant.At that time it required about 45 days to assess the county with one helper or deputy.During these days they had toll gates and most of them were on the Lewisburg-Marlins-Bottom Road,to have a toll gate required a toll house and often a site had to be condemned by the court to erect the building.The cost of the county court for the year of

1857 amounted to $ 195.00.and the amount spent by the court for jurors both Grandjurymen and Petit-jurors amounted to $ 64.00.At June court 1858 Thomas Hill was chosen Coroner for the county and Sherman Clark was chosen Surveyor for the county for a six year term with George McNeel as deputy Surveyor.William Curry was elected Clerk of the County Court for a 6 year term starting January 1.1858.

Information- County Court Order Book # 4-5 and 6
Court House.Marlinton.W.Va.

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W.Va.

15/41 County Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

At the June meeting of the County Court of 1859 they ordered Josiah Beard,George Edmiston,James Kellison and Jessey Cochran to act as a commission to view a site for a road from the old Beard mill on Locust Creek to Spice Run with intersection with the road leading up Little Creek and thence to the Greenbrier County line .It was at this same meeting of the court that the county levy was layed amounting to $2,772.80 and of this amount $1,116.84 was to go to meet the needs of the poor.

No doubt the first Notary Public to serve Pocahontas County was none other than William Skeen as he was commissioned by the Governor of Virginia January.1.1860 to serve as a notary for Bath,Allegheny and Pocahontas Counties and from that time to the present we have had men commissioned as Notarys for the County and state.It was at this same time that William Curry was commissioned a title as special commissioner to settle and adjust all accounts that came before the court.At the May term of court it was deemed advisable to take a poll of the county to see whether or not the court should buy a farm to be used in caring for the poor, this poll was to be taken the last of May.1860.William Skeen was chosen as attorney for the commonwealth of this county for a term of 4 years starting July 1.1860.Isaac McNeel was elected Sheriff of the county for a two year

1.1861 with John S Wooddell,Charles W Weaver,James F

Gum and Amos Barlow as his deputies.James F.Moore was elected commissioner of the revinue of Pocahontas County for a term of two years starting Febuary I.I86I.

The county levy of I860 was $ 2,485.6I to be collected from II52 tithables and the following July term the court layed the levy for I86I which amounted to $ 2,458.58 from II43 tithables.

It was on March I86I that a committee composing of John McNeel,John W.Ruckman and Wm.C Kinnison were appointed to view a way for a road from the Pheobe McNeill mill on Swago Creek up the mountain to David Burgesses by way of Spruce Flats thence to Beaver Dam on Williams River and today this old road is visible but not in use,this road was on what is known as the Young Mountain but was replaced in later years by a road up near Camp Secret Hollow and on to Williams River.

At the February term I862 the Justices of the county were summoned by the court to appear before that body pertaining to the matter of getting salt from the salt works located in Smyth County Virginia,known as the Stuart Buchanan Company.Allen C.Burner was chosen to act as agent for the county,as the county could only get her quota which was distributed equally among the inhabitants of Pocahontas County.Shortly after this we obtained salt from The Washington Salt Works all this salt was put out by the Governor of the state of Virginia and distributed according to the number

in their families.So all the salt used on the western waters came from old Virginia,having to be brought great distances often by pack horse and in later years by wagons that made trips to the Eastern side for supplies twice yearly in the Spring and in the Fall,this made salt very high but was very essential to the inhabitants of what is now Pocahontas County as there was no laws on game of any kind and their principal meat supply came from the Deer,Bear,Wild Hogs,Turkeys and other wild game that roamed this vast wilderness during the first half of the I8 th century,this meat had to be preserved by salt,besides what was used in salting the domestic animals of the Pioneers of this county.So it is plain to be seen that the County Court at that time had a very difficult task administering these alloted products,and it was about this time that an agent was chosen by the court to obtain medicine from old Virginia for the inhabitants of the what is now Pocahontas County,as all supplies had to be passed on by the Governor of Virginia,that is the salt,medicine and other goods that had to be processed in different parts of Virginia and sent out to her many localities within her borders.

It was no little task for these gentlemen to administer to such a vast terretory as Pocahontas ranks third in area of square miles with 942.6I being surpassed by only Randolph and Greenbrier.Pocahontas having 4 magisterial districts with 30 voting precincts,is in the 2 nd.Congressional District,

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in the 12 th Senatorial District and in the II th.Judicial Circuit as of 1940.Serving this vast terretory was no easy task at that time when their only mode of travel was either on foot or on horseback and these men had to assemble at the County Seat which was Huntersville from all parts of the county to administer justice to the inhabitants from all sections.And be it said that we people here in Pocahontas County today owe much to these men that gave their services in order that we might have a good county Government,a prosperous county and a good county in which to live,with laws enacted by these county courts that have protected our rights and gave us a good county government.

Information.County Court Order Books # 5 & 6 .Marlinton.W.Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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Marlinton.W.Va.

Blue Books of 1935 to 39

unty Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co. # I.

The county roads when the county was first settled were mere trails cut out of our vast wilderness by the Indians,when the first white settlers came from beyond the Alleghenys they began to cut out these Indian trails that in the years that followed became our main highways,but the two roads of note were the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike coming from across the Allegheny Mountains and The Marlins Bottom Lewisburg Turnpike,these two roads led to supply lines, and Railroad centers outside our borders,and the revenue of the county went to keep up these two roads as they were the main ones used to get supplies in from Staunton,Millboro on the East and to the Greenbrier and Greater Kanawah Valleys on the South.These roads were plain dirt roads which became almost impassible in the fall and winter months,a greater part of these main roads were kept up for years from toll collected at various toll gates along these main highways,but these were gradually done away with and taxation kept them in repair.Along about 1900 the first macadam roads were built taking the place of the dirt roads that were so numerous throughout the county.The coming of the hard roads meant increased taxation and many times a certain district within the county would sell bonds in order to raise an amount sufficient to complete leading highways in this particular district,this meant higher rate of taxes

unty Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W.Va. Pocahontas Co. # 2

retire or pay off these bonds, much of our county roads have been built by issuing bonds .

The gasoline tax and the money derived from the sale of automobile license have lifted a great burden from the county governments shoulders as a means of raising revenue to build and maintain our class (A) roads while our secondary or class (B) roads were kept up by county taxes until 1932 when the state took over all roads in the state, all machinery and equipment that was owned by by the counties throughout the state. Pocahontas County has approximately 1,500 passenger cars, 350 trucks and 10 motorcycles that travel the roads throughout the county that they themselves help to build and maintain by gasoline tax and license.

Until about 1933 and 34 many sections of the county were without roads but since that time the W.P.A and the C.C.C have built roads until at the present time there are very few sections in the entire county without a farm to market road and roads have been built by the C.C.C into the more mountainous sections where wild life is plentiful and plenty of room for recreation, and it is on many of these roads that we find our state flower the Rhododendron which is so prevalent in Pocahontas. With the coming of the hard road and the automobile old dobbin the horse began to decline in numbers until today horses and horse drawn vehicles are seldom seen on our main highways. Prior to 1934 the county had a general county road fund

unty Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va. Pocahontas Co.# 3.

also a District Road fund and in this way if a certain district wanted to build some extra road over and above their allotment from both the general county fund and what they might have available in their district road fund,they could issue bonds to be retired by extra taxation on this particular district.((Report next week will deal with the bond issues of Pocahontas County from time to time.))))))))))))))

In 1926 when A.C Barlow was elected to the County court replacing E.H Williams the court had three Democratic members which is thought by many citizens in the county to be unsafe as it is thought that the minority party should have representation on the court who in turn represent the population of the county.In 1928 William M.Buckley of Buckeye ran for state senator carried the county by a good majority but failed to carry the other counties in this senatorial district.In this same year Dr.George F.Hull of Durbin was elected to the House of Delegates.In 1928 R.N Nottingham was elected Assessor with J.R Gum, E.B Callison and Miss Anna Lee Irvine as his deputies.S.Reid Moore was elected Sheriff on the Republican ticket with R.C Crowley,R.M Bruffey and Howard McElwee as his deputies.

In 1932 R.W Buzzard was elected Sheriff on the Republican ticket with the same deputies that Moore had had.The late A.P Idar was el-

ted Prosecuting Attorney over his Republican opponent A.L Cooper and forCircuit Clerk North Nottingham was elected over his Republican opponent D.C Adkison who had filled this position for I2 years prior to this time. and Moody Kincade was successful for County Clerk over E.C Smith the Republican candidate.R.N Nottingham was elected Assessor over Edd Calford .R.W Brown was elected County Surveyor over John T.Nelson,with C.A Sharp being elected over A.C Pifer for County Court member for Edray District,And to the House of Delegates the late F.R Hill was elected over S.J Rexrode.In I934 the citizens of the county voted on an amendment that that had had much criticism and comment up until that time the ratification of the Prohibition amendment after much talk pro and con the election was held and when the votes were counted it was found that the vote stood for ratification 7988 and against ratification 2915.

In I936 R.N Nottingham was elected Sheriff over Walter Shafer his Republican opponent by a vote of 3902 to 3096,Nottingham chose as his Deputies L.B Callison as Office Deputy,Frank McLaughlin,Ralph Moore field deputies and O.B Curry as Jailor.For Prosecuting attorney Richard F.Currence (Dem 4I03) A.L Cooper(Rep)2854.For Assessor H.W Beard Dem)3787 Lloyd Vanreenen(Rep 3I58.House of Delegates June McIlwee(Dem- 4II7,S.J Rexrode(Rep)2833.County Court F.A Pritchard, Dem 4I3I,W.W Marshall Rep.2721 and County Surveyor W.R Sutton Dem.3987 .Harper Adkison Rep.2866.

In the election of 1936 Z.S Smith jr was elected to the County Court over his Republican opponent by a vote of 2929 to 2110,June McIlwee was re-elected to the House Of Delegates from Pocahontas over his Republican opponent Dr.L.C McCutcheon 2813 to 2426.Moody Kincade was elected County Clerk over Merritt Mellison by a vote of 3426 to 1771,Richard McNeel of Millpoint having been appointed by the court to fill out the unexpired term of Kerth Nottingham resigned Clerk of The Circuit Court failed to run for the next term but Grady K.Moore was elected over D.C Adkison by a vote of 2980 to 2330.

About 1910 to 15 after all the virgin timber had been cut on our vast timbered areas numerous forest fires broke out burning over thousands of acres of this cut over land far back in the mountains the smoke being so dense it was crowded in by low humidity to our towns and villages until it caused visibility to be very poor and for many miles away the aroma of burning leaves was xxxy stifling,these fires had to be put out at the expense of the county so about this time thousands of dollars were paid out by our county court to men of the county for fighting fire,this was all done by fire wardens,who went about over the county warning men out to fight fires under their supervision or that of their assistants.

Information.County Court Records from 1932 to 40 Marlinton.W.Va.

W.Va.Blue Books from 1935 to 39.

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject County Government. Date 3/6/42

Research Worker Samuel G.Smith Date Research Taken 3/2,3,4,5/42

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W.Va.Blue Books 39-40

Jay Buckley.Buckeye.W.Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

... REPORT

...unty Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co. # I.

The first settlers that settled on the western side of the Allegheny Mountains took up large tracts of land, especially along the Greenbrier River and other water courses in what later became Pocahontas County. Their taxes were very little but at that time money in any amount was hard to raise. One of these settlers and large land owners was John B. Buckleys grandfather who had 17,000 acres of land between Marlinton and Violet laying on both sides of the Greenbrier taking in the Buckley Mountains for which this chain of mountains was named, on this large tract the late John Buckley the pioneer paid 0.75 on this entire tract for one year, the taxes were payable at Staunton Virginia, thus this long trip to pay their taxes so you can easily see why a new county was formed and our county government brought closer home to the inhabitants of the upper portion of the Greenbrier Valey. Back about that time some of the Kellisons owned 350 acres near Violet and the owner said he would have to sell off part of his land because he could not pay the taxes which were only 0.75 for the entire tract, all of which was paid at Staunton Virginia, the money was hard to get and the trip to Staunton was long and tiresome, all of this and more led to the formation of Pocahontas County in 18[illegible] as this section was getting very little if any benefits from the taxes they paid, this is by way of comparison of our taxes of today, but we do get protection, good roads, free and High Schools that they did not enjoy at that

time and it is very doubtful if this section would have advanced as it has, if it had not formed a seperate county functioning within its' self.

Pocahontas is and has long classed as an advanced educational county having had one of the first High Schools as it would be termed today the Old Academy at Hillsboro and one at Greenbank serving the people of both the upper and lower end of the county until today Pocahontas County has 3 accredited High Schools with 28 teachers, these High Schools are The Little Levels District High located at Hillsboro, Edray District High at Marlinton and Greenbank High School at Greenbank, besides our 60 elementary schools of these II are Graded Schools with more than one room and ~~in this~~ we find 6 colored or Negro schools scattered about over the county where our colored population is the greatest. These 63 schools employ I36 teachers 28 employed by the High Schools while the remainder of I08 are employed for our elementary schools, this is less schools and less teachers than was used in the county up until about I933 when Consolidation was started, as we had around 80 schools up until that time that employed about I60 teachers.

Up until about I933 it took about half of the taxes collected in Pocahontas County to run our schools and pay our teachers as the state

id was very small up until that time but since that time the state has contributed greatly in our school system and revinue as in 1939 the state contributed $ 175,311.00 and in 1940 the state sent to this County $ 161,810.00 and the following is the amount spent by Pocahontas County in that year current taxes collected $ 62,611.00 state aid $ 161,810.00 other receipts $ 11,588.00 total receipts all funds $ 236,009.00 spent in Pocahontas County for school purposes all this money was raised by taxation of some sort either by our county levy or by taxes collected by the state in Pocahontas County and returned to the county in the form of State Aid to our school system,the state aid is determined by the amount of taxes that the state collects within our borders mostly by the Consumers Sales tax but others are collected also and a percent returned to the county.

Under our old tax system our County Court could raise what ever amount that their estimate called for but after the passage of the tax Limitation Ammendment they were not able to do this so other sources of revenue had to be established to meet this shortage of money so if it was not for our state aid we would have shorter terms of school and our entire edicational system curtailed.

The tax collected shows the growth and wealth of any county or

state and this is particularly true in Pocahontas as at the time of the formation of a new county in 1821 the taxes collected by Virginia of which we were a part were a mere trifle but the population in this section at that time received very little consideration in any way,but after Pocahontas was formed and our county government was in the midst of its' people right away we began to grow more taxes were collected from year to year,which was spent wisely on necessary improvements and today Pocahontas County the third largest county in the state in area has advanced greatlyby developing her resources cleared our level fertile sections that today produce our vast numbers of livestock and grain that in turn make up our property for taxation that the county is operated on.

Pocahontas County has a very effecient county government for her people by her people and for her people.

Information.County Records.Marlinton.W.Va.

Jay Buckley.Buckeye.W.Va.

W.Va.Blue Books 39-40.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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5 Marlinton.W.Va.

and jail not to exceed 50.00

/4I County Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

At a meeting of the court of April 4th,I848 the following gentlemen were present Paul McNeel,Joseph Moore,John Gay,and Samuel Hogsett members present,they proceeded to lay the county levy which was I09.50 to be collected from 96I tithables this was the largest levy thus far layed in the county.William Blair was again chosen Sheriff of the with William J Wooddell, Isaac McNeel,James T Lockridge and John Holden as his deputies.At this time it was deemed advisable to divide the county into districts for the election of overseers of the ppor for the county.At this setting of the court they acted on the citizenship papers of James Dorsey a native of Ireland,and he was admitted and became a citizen of the United States.

Henry M.Moffett resigned as clerk of the court and William Skeen was acting clerk for a time until the court appointed him as clerk for a seven year term.A court held May I,I849 was composed of the following gentlemen justices James Sharp,William Fertig,John W.Warwick,John McNeel,John Yeager,Patrick Bruffey,Samuel Hogsett,Leonard Herring,Benjamin Tallman,Edward Ervine,Jacob Mathews,Lanty Lockridge,Josiah Beard,William McNeel,Woods Poage,David Kerr,Hugh McLaughlin,Abraham Hill,William Cackley,Paul McNeel, John Gay and Joseph Moore at this time the levy was layed for I849,which was for I09.40 to be collected from 980 tithables and at this time it was thought necessary by the court to repair the court house and jail not to exceed 50.00

in this benches were to be made for the jury room.Isaac Moore was commissioned sheriff of the county with James and William Bruffey and John Holden as his deputies.

The court of I850 May term consisted of the following men William L Fertig,James Edmiston,John McNeel,John Yeager,William Cackley,David Kerr, Samuel Hogsett,William L McNeel,Hugh McLaughlin,Lanty Lockridge,Paul McNeel and Sampson Mathews.At this term of court an assessor was chosen in accordance of an act of the general assembley so Paul McNeel was chosen the first assessor of Pocahontas County.The levy for I850 was for $IO. from 989 tithables.It was ordered by the court that an open poll be taken of the White free holders ,tax payers and persons over 2I years of age chargeable with the pay of the county levy,also whether the County Court of this County shall subscribe to the capitol stock of the Virginia Central Rail Road Company a sum not exceeding IO.000.00.Thomas Hill was again chosen commissioner of the revinue for Pocahontas County for the year of I850,Paul McNeel submitted his report of assessment of lands and personal property in Pocahontas County which took 95 days to perform his duty,his bill was authorized payed by the court and certified to the auditor of public accounts for payment.

The county was layed off into school districts,the first commencing at John Townsends and a straight line to the mouth of Sittlington Creek,thence [illegible] Paul McNeels thence to the Highland County line,this includes

all the people in the upper end of the county,# 2 commencing at Andrew Mathews XXXX

ars and today we find our schools still under the supervision of a county superintendent,this office having been created in I85I.

The sheriff produced in court a list of land ~~XXXX~~ to be sold for the nonpayment of taxes for I845-46-47-48 and 49 this land was sold October I I850 so this custom was started in I850 and is still practiced in our county today.Isaac Moore was again chosen sheriff of the county until I852 his deputies were William Bruffey,James Bruffey and John Holden.A court held April I I85I was made up of the following justicesJoseph Moore,Benny Tallman,Samuel Hogsett,John McNeill,and Leonard Herring.About this time Sampson L.Mathews takes over and has surveyed I,000 acres of land on Stamping Creek and Cranberry River,which refers to a survey of 3.000 acres in I787 of George Clendenen,John McNeel and John Beckley,this Mathews tract is the vacant land between these surveys of I787.Many of our larger estates were surveyed between the time of the formation and I850 and some of these larger tracts are still togather today,as much of Pocahontas County is taken up by some of our larger farms~~X~~ of from 500 to 2500 acres found in various parts of the county.

In I85I the court room was enlarged and a new clerks office built this served the county for many years.

It is at this time that the records show that a free man of color named Ceasar Freeman received a parsel of land from George Messinbirg and

it is thought by many that this is where Ceasar Mountain got its name as these colored people lived here for years after their master died.This land is recorded in the clerks office in Bath County Virginia of 1796.

This county like all civilized countries had to have ministers of the gospel for preaching on the sabbath day also to perform marriages that took place from time to time over the county,as religious activities played a very important part in our county government from its very beginning and so on up to the present time as no country can survive without some sort of christianity so on October 7,1851 Joshua Buckley a Methodist Protestant minister is ordained a minister of the gospel and a license was granted him to perform marriages within the commonwealth.

Benny Tallman is chosen Sheriff and commissioned by the Governor of Virginia to serve until 1853,his deputies were Jacob Kennison,and John A. Holden.

By this time our county government was functioning nicely and the inhabitants on the western waters were better satisfied than before the formation as they felt they were better served by a government ~~XX~~ with the the county government in their midst and so today we find the closer the government is to the people the better it functions .

Information-County Court Order Book # 5 Clerks Office-Marlinton.W.Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Pocahontas Chap. 10

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[redacted]

days service on public roads----------2.50

James Sharp was commissioned Sheriff to serve until the first quarterly court for the year of 1845,James T Lockridge,William J Wooddell & John Holden were commissioned as his deputies.The levy for 1847 was layed and it was 796.42 to be collected from 932 tithables this being one of the largest levies layed and this was the largest population up until that time ~~XXI~~.The levy was the following.

Jacob W Mathews 6 days as surveyor of public roads 3.00

Paul McNeel for 24 chairs for court house and hauling same. 33.00

Benjamin Herold 4 days as surveyor of roads. 2.00

Isaac Moore 3 days " " " " I.50

Thomas R Poage II ~~X~~ " " " " " 5.50

Thomas R Poage I pound of gunpowder .50

Hugh McLaughlin 2 days as surveyor of public roads I.00

James W Moore 3 days " " " " " " and putting up two index boards. 3.00

John B Hill, Ebenezer Whiting, Richard Hill and Abraham Hill I old wolf scalp I2.00

Josiah Morrison 4 old red foxes 6.00

Ebenezer Whiting for 2 old fox scalps---------3.00

Jacob Bible for 2 days surveting public roads---------I.00

James Irvine for 5 days service on public roads---------2.50

rick Bruffey for IO days service on county roads----------5.00

Henry Grimes for 3 days service on public roads----------I.50

Marshall Peyatt for 2 young Red Foxes----------I.50

Abel Adkison for 4 days service on public roads----------2.00

William Harper for 3 days services on public roads----------I.50

William Hogsett for 5 days surveying on public roads----------2.50

Richard Hill for I old Red Fox scalp----------I.50

Richard Hill,William Morrison,JamesKellison and Alexander Morrison for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

Abraham Cutlip for 2 old red fox scalps----------3.00

Adam Nottingham for 4 days as surveyor of public roads----------2.00

Ebenezer Whiting for 3 old red fox scalps----------4.50

Samuel MGay for 8 days as surveyor and for sign boards----------4.50

Alexander W Sharp for 2 red fox scalps I young and I old----------2.25

James Kellison and Richard Hill for 2 old wolf scalps----------24.00

Josiah Callison for II days as surveyor of public roads----------5.50

John Waugh for for 6 days and 3 index boards ---------- 5.25

James W Smith for I old red fox scalps----------I.50

William P Hill for I crowbar 4.I7 and I sledge 4.00----------8.I7

Jas.P McComb for building chimney at court house----------I0.00

Robert Gay for 3 days as surveyor of public roads----------I.50

Phillip Moyer for 7 days as surveyor of public roads----------3.50

Josiah Beard for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

Charles W Grimes for 3 old and 3 young red fox scalps----------6.75

George Rider for 2 days as surveyor of public roads---------- I.00

Richard McNeel for 6 days as surveyor of public roads----------3.00

Levi Cackley for 2 old red fox scalps----------3.00

Mathias Potts for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

Mathias Potts and Jerome McCloud for one old red fox scalp----------I.50

John McNeill for 3 days as surveyor of public roads----------I.50

Arch Rhea for II days as surveyor of public roads----------5.50

William Gum for 8 Iold wolf scalp----------I2.00

John H Ruckman for 8 days surveying public roads----------4.00

Alexander W Rider for 4 days service on public roads----------2.00

William Blair for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

John Hannah for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

John Hannah for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

Andrew Wanless for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

John Houchen for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

Benj.Wallace for 2 young red foxes----------I.50

Samuel W Burnside for I old red fox ----------I.50

George Kerr for 6 days as surveyor of public roads----------3.00

John Arbogast for 4 days and index boards----------2.75

George Young for 4 days on public roads and I index board--------2.75

William D Hefner & B.Griffin for 2 young red foxes ----------I.50

Solomon Coonrad for I old wolf scalp----------I2.00

Robert B Tallman for 5 days as surveyor of roads ----------2.50

John Sheets for 6 days as surveyor of roads ----------3.00

William Moore I old red fox scalp ----------I.50

Franklin D Moore for I old red fox scalp ----------I.50

Josiah Barlow for I old red fos scalp ----------I.50

Henry Barlow for I old red fox scalp ----------I.50

Joseph Cochran for I old red fox scalp----------I.50

William Baxter for I old red fox scalp ----------I.50

Andrew Duffield for 5 days on public roads ----------2.50

Benoni Griffin for 2 days services on public roads ----------I.00

Thomas Beal for 6 days services on public roads ----------3.00

Jas.Courtney I old wolf scalp for benefit of Isaac Moore ----------I2.00

John McElwee for 9 days as surveyor of roads ----------4,50

William H Ferrill for commonwealth attorney ----------I00.00

Virginia Writers' Project
SEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT
Date 10/18/41

H.M Moffett clerk of the court ----------I90.00

Same for stationery ----------30.00

James Sharp (Sheriff Pocahontas County ----------75.00

James Holden jailor ----------50.00

H.M Moffett for I order book ----------8.50

For depositions ----------I00.00

A list od delinquincies in the county for the year I846 was presented for 2I.25 which is accepted by the court. Along about that time any merchant that chose to sell liquor was granted a license by the court to sell Wine, Rum brandy etc this license cost I5.00 Hern Warwick was granted a license for his store at Big Spring to sell liquor at retail. On motion of Jacob Kinnison it was ordered that John H Ruckman, Richard McNeel, John Hill Edward Kellison and William Young act as a commission to view a site for a road from Stephen-hole Run to the top of Buckeye Mountain near William Auldridges thence to Pheobe McNeills mill and thence to George Kees.

William Blair, Thomas Casebolt and William Cochran were selected by the court to examine the bridge across Locust Creek, this was done at the courts setting August, 3, I847. The bridge was at the Josiah Beards Mill there is still an old covered bridge at this same place serving the many people of Locust Creek and vecinity today and the rock works of the present bridge no doubt were put in this bridge about I847. it was later covered

Virginia Writers' Project
IDENTIFICATION REPORT

and some new wood work added to replace the original that had melted due to time and decay.At this meeting of the court a commission was selected to view the alteration of the road from Academy(now Hillsboro to the Greenbrier County line on this commission were the following men William Blair,George Gay,Sheldon Clark and William Cochran.

From the formation of the county it was a constructive æra that took place within the county and much of the progress and growth was brought about by the untiring efforts of these old gentlemen that so faithfully served on our County Courts of the first part of the I8 th century.These men were the true pioneers in our county government and today many of our roads were layed out and surveyed by men that were pioneers in our county government.

At a special session of the court held February I,I848 the following gentlemen were present Hugh Mclaughlin,Jacob W.Mathews,Isaac Moore, Sampson Mathews,Paul McNeel,Leonard Herring,and John Gay.At this meeting William Blair was chosen Sheriff with James Lockridge,William Woodddell and John Holden as his deputies.On April,I7,I848 another called meeting was held this time to try a Negro slave named Henry and belonging to Josiah Beard for burning a storehouse belonging to Henry Casebolt,the Negro plead not guilty but was bound for one year to his master for his good behavior.

A license to operate a house of private entertainment was fixed by the court at 3.00.

By way of comparison the county has grown from the sparcely settled wilderness as it was at the beginning of the eighteenth century until at the last census of 1940 it had a population of 13,906 this shows the effeciency in county government from its beginning up until the present time.

Information-County Court Record Book # 4-Marlinton.W.Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

Pocahontas 10 RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject County Government

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Date Research Taken 10/14,15,16,17/41

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Source County Court Order Book # 3 & 4 Marlinton.W.Va.

Date Filed

0/18/41 COUNTY GOVERNMENT. SAMUEL G.SMITH HILLSBORO.W.VA.POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

Soon after the county was formed the court proceeded to organize the county Militia,as a part of the military establishment of the state. The following named persons were named as fit and proper persons to fill the respective offices so the Governor and the county requested the appointment of the following John Baxter for Colonel Commandant of the County of Pocahontas,Benjamin Tallman for the office of lieutenant Colonel, William Blair for Major,Boone Tallman,William Arbogast,Henry Herold,Isaac Moore,and Milburn Hughes Captains.Andrew G Mathews,Robert W Warwick,William Morgan,William Young and James Rhea as Lieutenants.Jacob Slavens,James Wanless Samuel Young and James Callison for ensigns.

Patrick Bruffey was selected as a suitable person for Sheriff he getting his commission from the Governor of Virginia,his deputies were Paul McNeel,James Bruffey and John A Holden were appointed as his deputies, Bruffey to serve from Dec.1843 until the first quarterly court in the year of 1845.The levy was layed and it was found that it would take 779.52 to meet the expenses of the county for that year this being collected from 822 people included in this levy was 50.00 to Daniel Friel for repairing the jail making it a fit and safe place to hold prisoners.

One of the duties of the court at this time was to grant or reject a person permission to put a fence or a gate across a highway and all parties

concerned had to be consulted.Patrick Bruffey was commissioned Sheriff with James Bruffey and John Holden as his deputies for 1845 and 46.The levy for 1845 was for 678.87 from 857 tithables this levy was layed by Sampson L. Mathews,Hugh McLaughlin,Samuel Hogsett,& Joseph Moore.Thomas Hill was elected by the court as commissioner of revenue for the county,this usually required 75 days each year.James Sharp was chosen Sheriff until 1847 with Adam Nottingham,William Wooddell and John Holden as his deputies.The clerk of the court was designated by the court to settle with all Sheriffs that had finished their term of office.Henry M Moffett is again chosen clerk of the court with John Newton Craig as his deputy.At this time the court fixed the rates of ordinaries with a slight raise over former years.The levy for 1846 was 497.50 from 897 tithables this shows a gain in population and as many of the roads were finished the levy was lower than before,so most of the levy was for the salaries of the county officials,pay bounty on Wolf scalps and bounty on Red Foxes,about this time the county was beginning to prosper and needed roads into other counties so a delegation of men were selected to go to other counties asking their cooperation in making roads that served as communication lines for many years one of these old roads or trails is still very plain and is often referred to by people of this particular section this is the Old Nicholas Trail that is found on and near Blue Knob on Viney Mountain,this trail or road was a connecting link between Nicholas County

and Pocahontas.About this time the court proceeded to lay the county off in school districts in persuance of an act of the general Assembley passed on the 5th day of March 1846,so the court proceeded as follows the first district commenced at James Townsends at Stony Bottom and a straight line to John Sharps on the head of the south branch of Sittlington Creek.# 2 commencing at the line of the first and extending to William Bradshaws carding machine and up to the ford of Knapps Creek near Huntersville # 3 commencing at the line of the second at Samuel Hogsetts from there to the Cummings place and from there to Jonathan Griffins and to the Nicholas County line # 4 starting at Cummings place down Greenbrier River opposite the head of Beaverlick to James Piles place and to the mouth of Stamping Creek to the Nicholas County line,# 5 commencing at the line of the 4thä at the Greenbrier County line and running to John Oldhams and from there to John Beards mill and from there to Samuel Whitings and joining up with the line of the 4th,# 6 starting at the line of the 5th at the Gre nbrier County line to the Nicholas County line this covered the remainder of the county,this being completed the next task for the court was to select a commission for the county one man coming from each district and known as the school commission as follows for district #I Patrick Bruffey,# 2 Preston Moore,#3 Isaac Moore,# 4 John H Ruckman, # 5 Thomas Hill, # 6 Josiah Beard.

At page 175 in County Court Order Book # 4 I found a note written by the clerk of the court then William Skeen as follows .Of free and colored slaves.For 1830 they had within the county 114 slaves and 5 free colored,for 1840 they had 92 slaves and 6 free negroes and for 1850 they had 146 slaves and 8 free negroes.

In 1845 the following men sat as a jury to hear any complaints and to make any indictments that may deem advisable John M Jordin(foreman) Moses Poage,Timothy Alderman,Nicholas Simmons,Abel Atkinson,Ben Griffin, Anthony Lightner,Alexander Morrison,Allen Galford,Jacob Cassel,John Houchen,Elijah Hudson,James Lockridge,Peter Buzzard,William Moore,John Sheets, William Nottingham,Joseph Friel,John Hannah,William McGloughlin,John Carpenter,

3 & 4

Information-County Court Order Book.Marlinton.W.Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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I,2 & 3
MARLINTON.W.VA.

Pocahontas
Chap. 1d

The levy of 1828 was 737.33 to be collected from 659 people for 1829 levy was 341.00 from 681 people .At this time the clerk of the court received 35.00 the Sheriff 40.00 and the Jailor 25.00 and in 1828 the Sheriff was Robert Gay,Josiah Beard Clerk of the court,and James Brindley Jailor.About this time wolf scalps were raised to 8.00 and the men allowed.50 cents a day for working on the public roads of the county.Valentine Cackley was deputy Sheriff under Gay.

The overseers of the poor were forced to bind out children of any family found to be in destitute circumstances.In the levy of 1828 James Elliot was allowed 5.00 for laying out the streets of Huntersville then the county seat.

It was the duty of the County Court to fix the rates of taverens also the rates for keeping stock seized by constables under executions.Benjamin Tallman was again commissioned as Sheriff of the county with Boon Tallman and James Brindley as his deputies.At this time the court deemed it advisable to lay the county off into districts so the constables could keep within their respective and allotted terretory,the upper end of the county known as Upper Tract was # I,# 2 to Deer Creek,# 3 all inhabitants from Knapps Creek,the men chosen for these jobs had to be honest and upright citizens.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT-Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas CO.

From the time of the formation of Pocahontas County when it was still a part of Virginia,the County Courts biggest job was that of laying the annaual levy each year in June.The levy of I830 was $ 405.IO to be collected from 7I7 tithables or taxpayers.The Levy of I83I was $ 9 I8.46 from 687 tithables.That of I832 was $995.from 677 tithables in this levy was a special levy or amount of 350.00 for erecting a county jail which was built by William Gibson.The levy of I833 was for $623.27 to be collected from the taxpayers of Pocahontas.The one of I834 was layed by the fodlowing gentlemen Joseph Moore,William Cackley,John Bradshaw,& John Gay and the total levy was for $707.39 to be collected from 720 tithables,the one for I835 was for $ I065.98 to be collected from 733 tithables this levy was layed by the following Benjamin Tallman,Thomas Hill, Abraham Hill,Joseph Moore and Isaac Moore.The levy for the year of I836 was for $ 630.58 from 755 tithables and was layed by William Cackley,Benjamin Tallman,Jacob Warwick,Joseph Moore and James Edmiston.The levy for I837 was for $ 65I.09 to be collected from 755 tithables and was layed by Benjamin Tallman,Sampson Mathews,William Gibson,& Jacob Arbogast.The levy of I838 was for $ 620.00 from 770 tithables(The remaining levies to follow in next report.)

When the county was first formed the Sheriff served for only two years so in I828 Robert Gay was chosen Sheriff until I829.The court at th-

The following men were selected as constables when the county was layed off in districts # 2 James Cooper,Little Levels James Elliot.#2 James Higgins,# 3 Elijah Hudson and William Moore Jr.Elk district these men were appointed May I8,I830.At the June term of court I830 the Sheriff was authorized to buy a bell for the court house but not to cost over I5.00.John Floyd was Governor of Virginia at that time.The court of 3I consisted of George Burner,John Gillan,Joseph Moore,John Bradshaw and Jacob Mathews,with Benjamin Tallman as Sheriff and Paul McNeel as his deputy,at this time the Sheriff had been raised to 80.00 .In selecting a Sheriff for the next term a ballot was taken and when the ballots were counted it was found that the two me nominated by the court had tied,each getting 8 votes,the two contestants were John Burner and Jacob W Mathews,after sometime the Governor of Va. commissioned George Burner as Sheriff until XXXX I833 his deputies were Paul McNeel ofX the Levels,Matthew Wdmiston and James K Elliot with James Brindley Jailor.At this time John McElwee was commissioned as Coroner for the county.

Henry M Moffett served as clerk of the court for a long period of years,he also examined the land and property books for the Commonwealth for this extra service he received 20.00 a year in addition to his salary as clerk.

Among the many things that fell on the court was the passing on the elegibility of the many old soldiers that saw service from I774-80 these benefits were to come from the state of Va.for their services in the regular

army and some who had served as an Indian IXMX spy,these men having attained the age to receive this money,each man had to prove his service record and have his discharge.George Burner was again commissioned as Sheriff of the county with Mathew Edmiston as his deputy.Jacob Mathews succeeded him as high sheriff of the county these men were all serving one year,and again in I835 he was chosen Sheriff for another term.In I836 a bounty was put on Red Foxes of I.00 each this raised the levy somewhat but as this section was beginning to produce several sheep it was deemed necessary to take such steps to safeguard the property of the farmers.

In I837 the 7th of March the following men sat as a Grendjury for and in Pocahontas County,Thomas Gammon(foreman) Nathaniel Kinnison,William Duffield,Abraham Jordin,Hugh McLaughlin,John R Flening,James Moore,Frederick Boher,Samuel D.McCutcheon,Woods Poage,George Edmiston,Henry Duncan,William Moore,John Rucker,Reuben Buzzard,James May,William Sharp,Isaac Moore,Wm Cleek,Daniel Alderman,and Robert McCutcheon these men were sworn to consider presentments,and after sometime presented an indictment against Boon Tallman for failing to take in the taxible property as Commissioner of Revenue this case was kept in court for a time but finally was dismissed.Many cases were carried from one term of court to another,moreso than today and they often were continued from court to court and finally dropped,at this time

David Campbell was Governor of Virginia at this time.John Gilland became Sheriff of the county,any man summoned as a juror who failed to appear to perform his duty ~~XXX~~ without a good and just cause was fined by the court.The Sheriff always summoned the Justices of the county to perform their duties,to act on all legal matters,lay the levy,try a person that had been indicted,select constables ,the court from time to time fixed the price to be paid at Ordinaries and houses of private entertainment.It was at a called meeting of the court of April I.1839 that was called to consider the cace of Joseph Lewis (a man of colour)that he being a free man is asking to be allowed to remain within the county under an act of General Assembly of the Commonwealth.

At this special setting the following men were appointed as surveyors of the following roads of Pocahontas County,John Duffield the road to Elk,George Gay the road from Moses Hughes to Col.John Hills,Samuel Gay from Gays to Huntersville,John McNeel from Moore McNeills to Marlins Bottom,John McElwee from Huntersville to the I½ mile tree above Wm. Bradshaws,George Rider from the forks of Knapps Creek to the Bath County line,James Wooddell from Thomas Galfords to Wm.Arbogasts,Little John McNeill from Stephen-hole Run to Moore McNeills,Andrew Mathews from Robert McCutcheons to Wm.Arbogasts,Joseph Moore from turnpike road at A.W Riders to the

Greenbrier County line,Henrt Grimes from bridge near Chas,Grimes to Leonard Herrings on Knapps Creek,John Waugh from head of Browns Creek to Chas Grimes,Levi Cackley from 26 mile tree on Beaverlick Creek to Huntersville, John Gilland from Thomas Bradshaws to top of mountain on Williams River, Abraham Hill from Amos Kinnisons toward Nicholas County,Jacob Lightner from Henry Herolds to Leonard Herrings lane,John Jordin from 2nd.ford on Beaverlick Creek to 26 mile tree,James Woods to top of Valley Mountain at Randolph County line,to Cloverlick,Solomon Buzzard from Thomas Galfords to Fanny Arbogasts,John B.Tidd from top of Rich Mountain to Greenbrier County line,Jacob Mathews from Robert McCutcheons to the I½ mile tree above Wm. Bradshaws this covered about all the roads of mention of the county at that time.

The court ordered that William C.Price,John Hill,David S.Ruckman & Wm.Edmiston be appointed commissioners to superintend the election of Representatives to the General Assembley and to Congress this to be held at William C Prices in May.After the formation of the county the business of the court continued to increase as the county seat was in the midst of the inhabitants,this being one of the reasons for the formation of the County of Pocahontas,was a centralized local government.

Information-County Court Order Books # I,2 & 3.Marlinton.W.Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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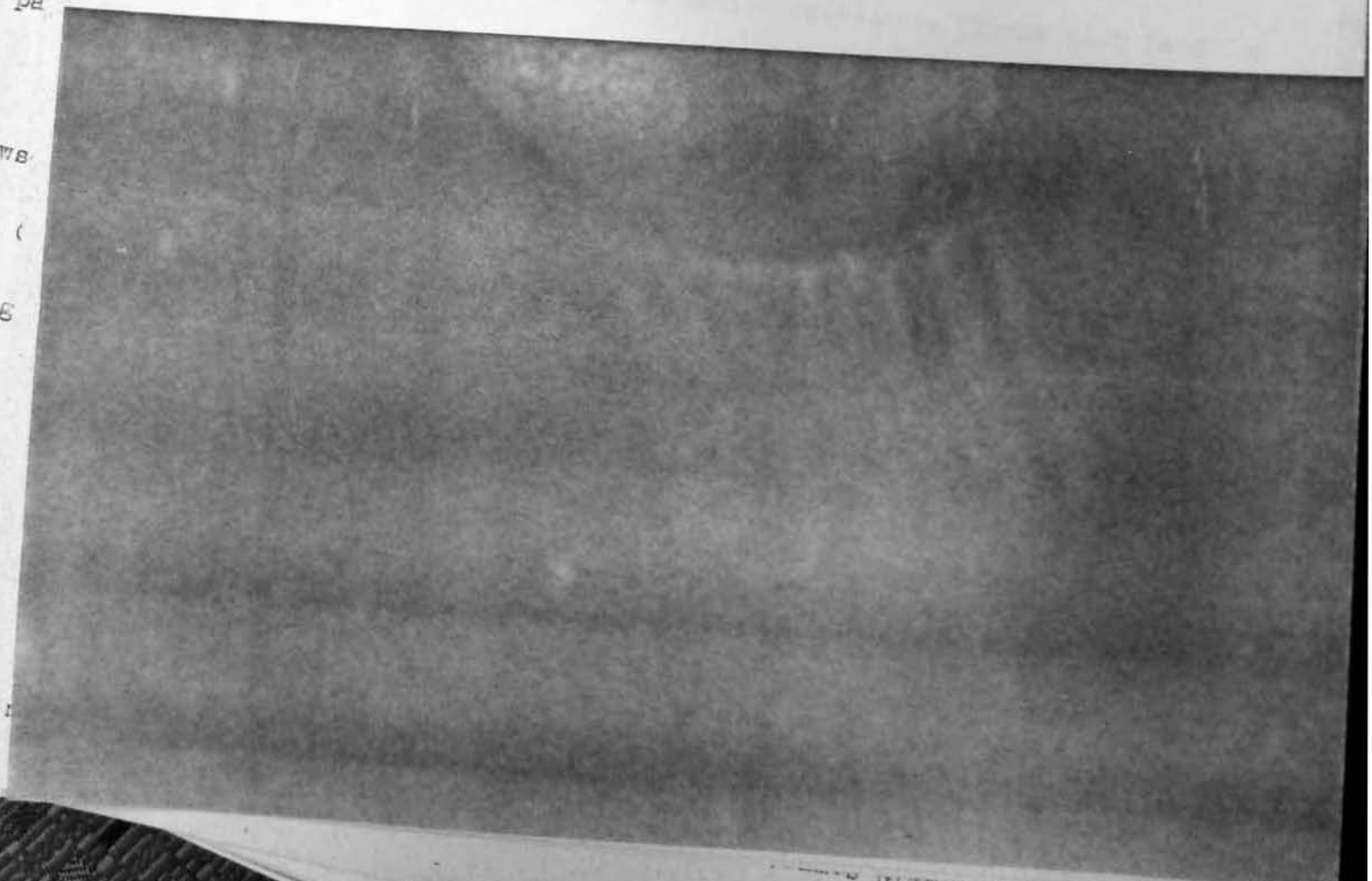
Pocahontas County
Chapter 10



9/20/41 County Government. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W.Va. Pocahontas Co.
-Chapter IO -

Pursuant to an act of the General Assembley of Virginia entitled an act forming a new county out of part of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph Counties on the 5th, day of ~~MAY~~ February 1822. John Jordan, William Poage, James Tallman, John Baxter and George Burner were commissioned as Justices of the County of Pocahontas, these gentlemen met at the house of John Bradshaw on March 5th, John Baxter administered the oath to the other men, this oath was to uphold the constitution of the U.S and the Commonwealth and against dueling, these men after taking the oath took their seats and organized themselves into a court for Pocahontas County.

John Jordan being commissioned by his excellency Thomas Mann Randolph Governor of Virginia as the sheriff of Pocahontas County, who gave bond according to law with Abraham and Isaac McNeel as his surities in the amount of $ 30,000.00. Josiah Beard was appointed by the court as clerk of the county Court with bond of $ 3.000.00 with Thomas Beard, George Poage and James Tallan as surities, his oath was the same as the other gentlemen. Johnston Reynolds was appointed as attorney for the commonwealth in Pocahontas County. Sampon Mathews was appointed by the court as a fit and proper person to fill e office of surveyor for Pocahontas County. Milburn Hughes was appointed nstable for the lower district which is Little Levels today, where he forrly acted as constable when the county was within the boundary of Bath

in old Virginia,his surities were William McNeel and Robert McClintic and the bond was for $ 500.00.James Cooper was appointed by the court as constable for the district called the head of the Greenbrier with William Slavens and Samuel Hogshead his surities.Cyrus Cary and Johnston Reynolds obtained a license to practice law in the inferior & superior courts of law within the commonwealth.(Court adjourned till the following morning March 6.)

The proceedings of the next day was the following Jonathan Jordan was qualified as a deputy sheriff to assist his father .James Callison was appointed surveyor for Little Levels to keep the roads in repair,William Edmiston was appointed surveyor for a stretch of road from William Poages to the second ford on Beaver-Lick Creek.John Hill appointed as overseer from second ford on Beaver-Lick Creek to the twenty mile tree,he formerly worked under Isaac McNeel who kept the road up before this time.Alexander Woddle appointed to oversee the road leading from the fork of road on Douthards Creek to the top of Allegheny Mountain.John McNeel(Little) appointed to look after the road from Stephen Hole Run to the ford of Greenbrier River opposite William Poages.Robert Moore to look after road from William Poages to John Bradshaws. Martin Dilley to look after the road from forks of road on Douthards Creek to Isaac Moores on Knapps Creek with the same men he had working under him before the county was formed.Benjamin Arbogast for the road leading from Levi Moores to the corner of Thomas Galfords fence.William Sharp the road from John Dunn-

ens place to Cloverlick.George Burner the road from John Slavens to the old Bath County line using the same men that had worked under Jacob Yeager and Adam Arbogast and also the men that had formerly worked under John May. Joseph Wolfenbarger the road from the Widow Warwicks to John Bradshaws as far as the head of Thomas Creek using the same men that Sampson Mathews had used on the West of Greenbrier River called the Allegheny settlement.Robert Gay appointed as commissioner of revenue for Pocahontas County with William Cackley and John Baxter as his surities.Besides attending to the appointments of the latter they acted on other business such as granting Travis W Perkins to open a house of entertainment until the next term of court in May,he having paid his fee to the clerk of the court.

The following men were recommended as Justices of the Peace Jacob Mathews,Thomas Hill,John Slaven,James Callison,William Edmiston,John Gilland,William Cackley,Samuel Cummings,John Bradshaw,Joseph Moore,Patrick Bruffey,James Waugh and James Sharp court adjourned to meet April 2/1822.

By this time there had been some little trouble within the border of the county so a grandjury was chosen to sit and hear testimony and if the facts were proven an indictment was returned against each personthat had committed a crime,the grandjury composed of the following men sat as a body Samuel Daugherty,foreman,John Moroney,John Johnston,Joseph Friel,James Grimes,James

Bridger,Samuel Waugh,Henry Herold,James Lewis,John Grimes,Moses Hughes William Blair,Andrew Edmiston,Sam Hogshead,Isaac McNeel,William McNeel,John Moore,Lanty Lockridge,John Griffin,George Key and Abraham Seabord,they returned two indictments one against David H Smith for disturbing the peace and one against Josiah Beard for obstructing public roads,Smith was found guilty and fined $ 100.00 and bound over to keep the peace .

Richard Hill George Poage,John Bradshaw,James Tallman And John Slaven were appointed as overseers of the poor for Pocahontas County.A deed was recorded from Thomas Cochran and wife to James Rankin this deed was acknowledged at this time by the court.This terretory was in the 8th,Judicial Circuit at that time.On May 8th,the first school commissioners were appointed they were the following Thomas Hill,Samuel Gay,Patrick Bruffey,James Tallman and John Gilland.

This court fixed the price of an(Ordinary) which was a dining place where the prices were fixed Diet 25 cts,lodging 8 cts,grain per gallon 12½ cts 12 hours at hay 12½ cts,whiskey per gill 6¼cts,Brandy per gill 6¼ cts,Jamaca spirits per gill 12½ cts,French Brandy 12½ cts and Rum per gill 10 cents these prices were fixed by the court at the May term 1822.

Information-County Court Order Book # I .Court House.Marlinton.W.Va.

C.W Price.Marlinton.W.Va.

W.G McKeever.Buckeye.W.Va.

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Pocahontas Co.
Chap. 10

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W. VA.

County Government. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

The county levy of 1822 was $ 950.47 and much of this was to pay the bounty on wolf scalps at 4.00 each as the labor was only 50cts a day at that time,the total taxable population at that time was 437 each of them payed 2.17 and the levy was met.The levy for the year of 1823 was $1.453.12 the Governor of Virginia at that time was James Pleasants.The county Court met once each month the year through,and much of their work was helping to enforce the laws,the constables often had to take stock and hold it for a debt and for security they were allowed 6¼ cents per day for a horse,3cts for a cow and 1 ct, each for a hog and a sheep,this rate was for 24 hours.

Many of the endictments in the youth of the county was for assault and battery and disturbing the peace with a few cases of larceny.Delinquincies for the year of 1823 was $ 17.07 this was a very small amount but at that day and time it was considered large,but money was very hard to get and about all the money a family got hold of during the year went to pay the taxes.At this time William Poage was appointed Sheriff with William Arbogast and Jonathan Jordan as his deputies.

About this time many so called Ordinarys were opened up,and in fact you found one in each populated area throughout the county,the court granted a license to each one who opened up an Ordinary,they were the same as our Tourists Homes of today.Deeds were passed by the court before they were recorded

nd many of these pertained to negro slaves,as their master usually gave each slave that was worthy something either in the way of land or some personal property and these all had to be passed on by the County Court before they were recorded.A plat of the prison ground was presented to the court by Sampson Mathews in 1824 Oct 5.Henry M Moffett was named assistant clerk to Josiah Beard .The levy for 1825 was ~~XXXXX~~ $ I.846.77 this money was collected by the Sheriff as of today and went to pay current bills of expense,the tax at that time was assessed equal as 348 people paid $ 3.35 each.There were many Justices of the Peace at that time and they did much of the work that today is done by our Circuit Court.Delinquincies for 1825 was $ 83.77.The court of 1825 were the following gentlemen James Tallman, John Bradshaw,John Slaven,James Waugh and Levi Moore.The J.P handled allthe papers of authorization of men to serve as heads of certain Companies,Battalians and Regiments of note in the commonwealth.

Overseers of the poor of 1825 were the following gentlemen Levi Moore,John Slaven,George Poage,James Tallman,& William Poage Jr,these men were all sworn and took the oath given by a Justice Of The Peace.Fees for feeding prisoners at that time was 40 cts,per day.James Tallman was chosen Sheriff until the first quarterly court of 1827 convened and his bond was $ 30.000.00 with William Arbogast as his deputy.Along about this time there were many constables appointed to assist in administering justice to the pub-

blic and affairs in general.The May term of court of 1826 was attended by the following members Robert Gay,John Gillain,William Blair,John Bradshaw and James Waugh,by this time right much land was being sold and titles transferred,this was all done by the court and the clerks.The county Levy was layed by the County Court assisted by the Magistrates of all over the county.

September 5.1826 James Kerr a minister of the gospel of the Presbyterian church and an ordained minister was granted the rights of holy matrimony.From time to time a commission was appointed to authorize, recommend the repair and alter roads throughout the county and various men served on these commissions but all were influential citizens.The magistrates of the county recommended a man for Sheriff of the county who was then recommended and confirmed by the court.The salary of all county men was very small and the men that worked on the roads generally received the small sum of 25 cts,per day.Some of the most common offenses at that time were assault and battery,obstructing public roads and one particular case at this time was one against Mary Erwin for stealing and carrying away II shoats at a value of $ 9.00 they were the property of John Sharp(This shows the value of shoats then and now as II shoats at the present time would be worth $ 55.00 or more.

John Tyler was Governor of the commonwealth at that time.This section furnished money to help construct a road from Staunton to the mouth of

ttle Kanawah complying with an act of the Legislature of Va.Each man overseeing a road was known as a surveyor and his men that worked under him were known as tithables.

George Mayes was the first prosecuting attornet of Pocahontas County.All the old soldiers with commissions were commissioned by our courts to the Governor of Old Virginia who conferred what ever title they were seeking.All wills were probated by the court as of today and this was one of the reasons for forming a new county in 1821 so that we could have our county Government in the midst of the people it was to serve.

The next Governor of Virginia was William B Giles and he worked very close with our court.One case of particular mention was that of Ben(the man of color) referred to in the will of Jacob Warwick this man of color was a Negro slave and after his masters death he took the name of Benjamin Warwick in honor of his master Jacob Warwick,Ben had been a faithful slave and upon many occasions had defended his master in an attack made by the Indians with tomahawk and knife.After the death of his master it was a question for the court to decide whether Ben could stay within the borders of the county a free man or must he be sent back to Va. Warwick had made certain provisions for Ben in his will so a comitte was appointed by the court to investigate and report back and their findings

ere that Ben be allowed to reside within the border of the county a free man this was passed on by a man by the name of Waugh and Patrick Bruffey.

Forming establishing and maintaining a new county with a small population was right much of a struggle for the few public spirited local men as many of the first settlers of what is now Pocahontas were just hunters and trappers helping out digging Ginseng and fishing,they were very little interested in the county government and public affairs in general as they wanted to be free men with little or no law,these were typical mountain people of which we have a few at the present time populating our mountainous sections,still contented to make a living out of the woods by hunting and digging Ginseng,the change that took place in this era failed to change this people the typical Mountaineer of which many are to be found in the hills of old Pocahontas in the West Virginia Hills where the tiny brook ripples down the mountain side and winds its way to larger waters that finally reach the ocean miles and miles away.

Information-Court Records Marlinton.W.Va.
R.Brown.Arbovale.W.Va.

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Source ~~County Court order Books~~ Date Filed

And

from a copy of records from a petition found in Bath County Va.

NOW IN THE HANDS OF R.W BROWN
ARBOVALE. W.VA.

County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Millsboro. W.Va. Pocahontas Co #I
[illegible] first under the regime of Augusta County, and the laws that
[illegible]ed the entire area of Augusta County was the law that controlled the
[illegible]eers of what is now Pocahontas, and "Greater Bath County". The same law
[illegible]t controlled the pioneers of what is now Pocahontas. The same law, custom,
and habits, religiously, and politically, of Bath County were the same as was
practiced by the very early controlling bodies of Pocahontas County after
its formation.

I am sending a petition of the names of the men that brought about
the formation of Greater Bath County which included the Pocahontas Area.
This petition bears date of April 13th 1778 and is recorded in the Annals
of the County of Bath Va. Bath County was formed Dec. 14th 1790. The pet-
ition was made about 12 years before the formation of Bath, some other
petitions were made but are not at hand.

13th April 1778

To the Honorable Specker & Gentilmen Deligates setting now

The petision of the Inhaitance of [illegible] Calf pastures Bull peture
Jackson River and Back Creek Humbly Sheweth

That yr petisioners not only at present but for many years
past ~~past~~ have labored under so great and grevious disadvantages by
Reason of the great Distance the most of us yr petisioners lives
from our Courts of Justice from forty to fifty and others near sev-
enty miles from our nearest court house besides these on our plan-
tion in the upper end of greenbrier at thirty and forty miles fart-
her back not to mention Tygers valley which is yet dependent [illegible]
so it would be better for the most of us to put up with small [illegible]
[illegible] don to us than to attend our present courts for common jus-
tice at so great a Distance and specially in these Extravagant Times
therefore we yr petisioners humbly praye that our great dificulty and
hardships may be removed by granting us a new county of our own and as

Arbovale. W. Va.

West Va.

#2

County Government. Samuel G Smith. Hillsboro. W.Va Pocahontas Co

m of us yr pet isioners inhabiters of Calf pasture are lately Thr-

into Rockbridge County much against our minds and inclinations as its

stly more inconvenient than stanton and worse road, therefore the whol

of us yr petisioners Humbly prays that our County if granted may be str-

uck off from augusta and Rockbridge counties by the dividing Waters on

the top of the North Mountain The lower End to begin on the top of ad

mountain square with the mouth of the Cowpasture River from thence to the

Lower End of Willim Manns plntati on at the mouth of the fawling spri-

ng on James River then to continue on a south line to the waters of the

Greenbryer from the beginning, the upper End Likewise to begin on the Top

of North Mountain opposite to the upper inhbiters of the Calf Pasture

nd from thence to the hd waters of the cow and Bull pastures then on

South Line the waters of the Green byer from the beginning. and a

our bounds is very Extensif and inhabitace plenty in number and Sefi-

ent Curcomstance to mk e good all necessary public buldings required by

w we Earnestly pray that your goodness my take our case into yr consid-

ration and grant ~~coup~~ petision al owi ng our Court House to b e buil

in the Cowpasture where it may be sentrable and a greed upon by the

ajority of us yr petisioners &c we rest in suspence in hopes of succe

ss in our request.

And we as in duty bound shall pray.

Arbovale.W.Va.

4/42 County Government. Samuel. G Smith. Hillsboro. W.va

The bove Petition of I27 names purpotes to be the first petition that we sent to the Virginia Assembly asking for the formation of Bath County, of which Pocahontas County was later a part this petition bears date of April I3th I778 and is found in the Annals of Bath County Va. on pge I06 .

Slightly more than a year later there was a second Petition. A third Petition was presented in the very same year I779.asking that the proposed county inclue portions of Botetourt and Rockbridge lying in the Cowpasture and Jackson River Valleys. It was presented that in order to attend Court some of the petitioners had to travel hundreds of miles and cross high mountains nd rapid streams

Nothwit hstanding the energy shown in these efforts, t he time was no t favorable to immediate action. The people of Virginia had to struggle with hig h taxation and depreciated money . The Revolution had not yet been fought to a finish, and much attention was necessairly bestowed upon the British, the Tories and the Indians.

In I78 0 and I78I, the British armies were ravaging the country east of the Blueridge so we need not be surprised that further effort was madeuntil after the return of pease. In I785 there wss a petition signed by 522 men, John McCreery, Alexander Black, John Kincaid, John Lewis, of Warm Springs, Va. being the most active men in the movement. In Oct, I788 there was another petition, the petitioners saying that trouble with the Indians had prevented them from addressing the Assembly at an earlier date. The settlers West of the Alleghaney (which is now the regine of Poca

Arbovale.W.Va.

1/24/42 County Government Samuel,G Smith . Hillsboro, W.Va Pocahontas Co.

Rafe Laforde John Montgomery John McCreery Henry Beard

Joseph Green Robert McCreery John Macdonly David Frame

Mathis Benston Wm Rhea Thomas Feemster Joseph Green Jr

Wm Jameson John Feemster John Kinging Jas Crocket

John Wilson, Jr James Peeble Alex Crocket Jas Dunwodie

John Hicklin William Black Wm Dunwodie Thos. Hicklin

Alex Black Wm Given Jas Hicklin William Jackson

John Montgomery Wm Green William Stewart John Carlil

James Stewart John Montgomery James Carlil Edward Stewartt

John Montgomery Robert Carlil Joseph Beathe Patrick Miller

John Kincaid James Hugart William McCanless George Benston

John Aowarding Thos. Douglas Jno Dunlap Joseph Mayes Jr.

William Smith Robert Loughridge Joseph Mayes Jr John Beverage

William Loughrilge George Francisco Robert McMullin John Loughrid

Chas Cameron, William Kilpatrick, Andey Loughridge, Robt Peeble,

Andr McCoslin, Joseph Carpenter, Robt McCee, Thos Davis,

James Botkin, Lofty Pullin, George Carlisle, James Clements,

Loftis Pullin Junr, Christopher Graham, Jas Clements Senr, Sam Guliam,

Irvin Benson, John Redman. Wm.Wilson, Wm.Johnson , Hugh rdan

Robert Duffel John Smith John Wilson Stephen Wilson

Thomas Cartmill John Dickenson Anthony Johnson Hugh Hicklin

Robert McFarland James Rucker jr Jacob Warwick Wm. Daugherty sen

Samuel McDannell Robert Hall John Beard Wm. Daugherty sr.

William Griffith Richard Maze Jr George Daugherty George Doherty

County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

William Doherty William Maze Hugh Hicklin Chas Donally

Andre Sitlington Robert Kinkade Thos Fitzpatrick Saml Cartmill

Robert McCreery John Redman Alex Crockett Abraham Hempstall

Elibabb Wilson Ralph Wilson Samson Wilson John Galaspy Thos Galaspy

Jas Galaspy Christian Snider Caleb Knapp John Brown Moses Knapp

Theophilus Blake John Blake George Blake John Peeble John Cartmill

James Blake John Miller John McCoslin.

This petition was copied from the original and the spelling and wording are not the best but am sending it in the way it reads. This list of names are the ones signing the petition. This report was very hard to type due to bad spelling etc, therefore it took longer. This section is for the earlier part of my assignment that I had difficulty gathering data on at that time.

Pocahontas County has grown from the time of formation 1821 with little or no valuation has continued to grow until at the present time the personal property of the county amounts to ~~1[illegible]~~ 2,648,690 real estate ~~[illegible]~~ 4,344560 all property 1074,150 the assessed valuation of real estate has decreased in the last few years due largely to the government buying up a greater part of our cut over mountain land that has been put into a national forest, thus decreasing our real estate as shown by the

County Government.S.G.S Pocahontas County.

land book valuation.however our personal property has continued to grow due to intensified farming,so in conclusion although we have less acres assessed our personal property grows from year to year due largely to this being an industrial county that has been built upon sound principle led by future thinking men until today the county enjoys many organisations and clubs as we find an active Red Cross Chapter,American Legion with Clark Young as Commander and Paul Overholt Adjacent,many A.F & A.M Lodges with the Eastern Star,Royal Order of The Moose,Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen besides the county enjoys a very adive Farm Bureau with G.M Sharp as its president,with this organization we have the Greenbrier Cooperative Shippers Association and the Wool Marketing Association.The Farm Womens Bureau president is Mrs John Pritchard and The W.Va.Farm Women Bureau Secretary is Mrs Nellie Hefner,of Buckeye,W.Va.Our own Calvin W. Price is president of the W.Va. Wild Life Federation.

The county has a good school system,the county unit system replacing the rural schools,as the pupils are trucked in to educational centers throughout the county.The county is served by three accredited High Schools one at Hillsboro,one at Marlinton and the third at Greenbank.

Information—— County Records Marlinton.W.Va.

And from records found in Bath County Va.now held by R.W Brow
Arbovale.W.Va.

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W.Va.Blue Books of 1904-1935-1939.incl.

unty Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.# I

Pocahontas County the third largest county in the state with 4 magisterial districts ~~xxx~~ Edray,Huntersville,Greenbank and Little Levels with 30 voting precincts in an area of 942.6I square miles and a population of I4,555 in I930 the census of I940 showed Pocahontas County had actually less population than in I930 due largely to a shift of the population to more industrial counties where coal is being mined extensively so our loss is the gain in other industrial counties throughout the state.The voting precincts throughout the county are as follows for

Little Levels District Millpoint,Hillsboro,Seebert,Beard,Lobelia and Droop Mountain.For Edray District East And West Marlinton,Buckeye, Edray,Alderney,Cloverlick,Linwood,Mace,Slatyfork and Woodrow,while for Huntersville District we have East Buckeye,Frost,Huntersville and Minnehaha Springs.For Greenbank District Dunmore,Greenbank,Boyer,Hosterman, Durbin,Cass,Thornwood,Spruce,Bartow,.

The major political parties of the county are the Republican and Democratic parties at this time but about I900 and for a few years thereafter we had the Prohibition party,the Socialist and Populists and and in I9I2 we had what was known as the Bull Moose Ticket but it was unsuccessful.and since that time we have had only the two parties.Pocahontas is classed as a Democratic county with a registered Democratic majority

of about II 00.

In I904 there were 2,347 votes cast in Pocahontas County by all parties ~~III~~,I67 Republican I,I30 Democrats and 50 all others.In I934 the total registration for the county was 7,665 of this number 4,I89 were Democrats,3,388 were Republicans and 88 all others,the total vote cast in the general election of I934 was 5,300 with a Democratic vote of 2,589 and a Republican vote of 2,678 all others 33 or a 69.I5 percent of all registered voters in both parties,the Democratic percent was 6I.80 while that of the Republicans was 79.04.In I938 the vote cast in the county by both major parties was was 5,298 this was 67.59 percent of the registered voters of both parties the Democratic party voted 60.66 % while the Republicans voted only 39.34 %.Those voting Democratic were 3,2I4 and those voting Republican were 2,084.Both the Democratic and the Republican Parties are very active within the county and although this is traditionally a Democratic County many offices are filled from time to time by Republicans,as Pocahontas County has long since been known as the county where the voters vote for the man and not the ticket, and as a general rule we here in Pocanontas County have good,able and courageous county servants.

All qualified voters are registered by a Registrar appointed by

the County Court but recommended by the Democratic and Republican executive committee of the county,these Registrars list the voters that are 21 years old and older,after this has been done they have certain days to sit to register any they might have missed and to correct their books before they are turned in to the county clerk and on the day of the election these books are taken to the Polls to see that no one votes that is not registered,all citizens of the county are entitled to vote but aliens and people of unsound minds.After an election the County Court sits to canvass the returnsand signs certificates of election.In 1940 the voters voted for a permanent registration thereby doing away with the job of re-registering the voters each election year so hereafter we will have a permanent registration,any moving,or the ones coming voting age will have to go to the county Clerk and be registered or have him make necessary changes.

George Sharp of Frost is County chairman of the Republican party and Fred C.Allen of Marlinton is chairman of the Democrat party,and it is to the leadership of these men that to see that their party functions properly.

When the depression came in 1930 Pocahontas County had many idle men and relief was started to assist needy people and so today we have

Department of Public Assistance with a case load of the following varying somewhat from time to time,those receiving old age assistance 188 blind 6,dependant children 74,general relief 49 or a total of 301 or a total spent on the needy in Pocahontas County for one year of $ 35.508.00 with administrative cost of $ 12.567.18.

Pocahontas County is a county with little work only farm work therefore many of her population have no work save for relief work by the W.P.A building roads of which consist of the following primary Roads designated miles 129.686,miles improved119.836 mostly by the State Road Commission our secondary roads on which the W.P.A work mostly designated miles 464.000 miles improved 196.560,by the use of W.P.A in Pocahontas County we now have many miles of farm to market roads that use to be impassible atleast six months out of each year,for these roads the rural citizens of the county sbe thankful,besides road work the W.P.A has furnished employment to many many people in many walks of life,namely sewing projects,N.Y.A hot lunches for undernourished school children,furnished public libraries, reasearch workers gathering information on the progress and hapenings within the county so all in all the W.P.A and the Pocahontas County Department Of Public Assistance of Pocahontas County has meant a lot to the many people found within her borders.And the cou-

nty Governmeny for their cooperation in sponsoring many of these projects.

Pocahontas County has a good law onforcement body as we have the Sheriff and his three deputies besides two state Police,besides the many Justices and Constables throughout the county not counting the town police of our larger towns within the county.The Sheriff office functions out of the county seat also the State Police,all these officers have cars and on short notice can be in any section of the county in a very short time.

(More About elections) As we use the Australian Ballot and believe in honest elections that the polls open at sun up or six oclock and remain open until sundown or approximately six oclock in the evening. The election officials consist of the following commissioners that see that is held according to law and is assisted by poll clerks who do all the writing and tally all votes and when sundown comes one of the Commgoes outside the building and exclaims in a loud voice that the polls are closed,they are opened in a like manner in the morning.

Pocahontas County has a very active Farm Bureau,with between 300 and 350 active members,the most of which ship their livestock cooperatively also sell their wool through the wool pool which always grades very

high,Pocahontas County participates in the Soil Conservation Program, the farmer getting aid for performing certain good farming practices, namely the seeding of soil conserving crops,seeding legumes,applying lime and Superphosphate,this program came into existence about 1933 or 34 to help the farmers of the county state and nation to build up their farms to produce more on less farm acerage,this aid along with the tax limitation amendment has meant more to the farmers of W.Va.and Pocahontas County than any legislation passed in recent years by our law making bodies both state and national,as the farmer had been staggering under a tax burden for years so in 1932 Thomas C.Townsend had this amendment voted on and it carried by a large majority.The first County Agent of Pocahontas County was Bert Johnson who was hired about 1916 or 17 as a numbers of farmers had gotten up a petition which was put before the County Court asking that the court hire a County Agent,and after due consideration Johnson was hired to serve the farmers of Pocahontas County and we have continued this practice these many years with much progress and aid to the rural population of the county.

Information.County Court Records.Marlinton.W.Va.

W.Va.Blue Books # 1934-1935-and 39 inclusive.

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Pocahontas County

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County. # I

In 1897 each district appointed road surveyors for Greenbank District I.F McLaughlin, James P. Wooddell, W.W Arbogast, John W Hollen, William Hill, William Gum, French C. Sutton, W. D McL. Arbogast, Joseph McLaughlin, James McLaughlin, J.W Oliver, William Collins, Leslie Beard, Marion Ray, C.A Lightner John Gregg, Zach Nottingham, Thos. H McLaughlin, Henry Flenner, Samuel Moore, Sandy Patterson, D.L Kerr, George S. Ray, Ananias Puffinbarger, George Houchin Walter Vint, Isaac Arbogast. (Little Levels) David Gladwell, F. Lee Cackley, George Beard, Cameron L. Clark, Michall McClure, N.M McCoy, J.B Grimes, N.S Rogers, JxM McClure, W.B Hill, John D. Payne, W.N Clark, Matt Woods, Stark Morrison Emmett Nottingham, F.A Renick. (Huntersville District) Amos Fertig, William H. Dilley, Ellis Moore, C. D Buzzard, Lloyd Reed, L, J Piles, William H Gleck, Thomas Malcomb, S, C Kincaid, Sherman Curry, A.H Sharp, J.H Buzzard, J.H Doyle, John R. Shrader, H.F Patterson, Isaac P. Dean, Wilson W Dilley, Amos F. McLaughlin, (Edray District) Page Gay, John E. Barlow, James L. Wilfong, George Baxter, D.W Sharp, George Auldridge, W.G Cochran, James B. White, Luther Kellison, Joseph Pennell, M.W Gordon, H.S Gelford, J.F Mccollam, J.Albert Sharp, Wm. Wooddell, Most of the road work at this time was done on the main Marlins Bottom-Lewisburg turnpike as all our goods had to be wagoned from Ronceverte and regardless of how much work that was done it was almost impassible about six months out of the year.

We count the first licensed auctioneers of Pocahontas County were

C.S Sneeker and D.A Fisher as they were licensed by the county court in 1898 and the doctors reporting births and deaths in 1897 were Drs.H.W Mcneel,S.P Patterson,W.T Cameron,J.W Price,F.T McClintic,J.M Cunningham,J.P Mooman and Chas.Gwinn.

The levy up to and including this time 1898 averaged something like $ 11.000.00 with the rate running from 40 to 50 cents but after 1900 when the railroad made its appearance up the Greenbrier the levy was higher but the rate was very low in fact in 1906 it was only 5 cts on the $100.00 valuation this was due largely to the railroad and the wholesale manufacture of our main resourse our timber.

Before the coming of the railroad the county burned wood which was bought for $ 1.55 a cord,this to be all hardwood and in 1899 the Laurel Creek Telephone Company was given authority bu our county court which consisted of the following members Amos Barlow,M.J McNeel and John Warwick to place their poles along the highway leading to this particular section.The County Court of 1902 was the same as the above only Dr.John Ligon replaced Mr.Warwick,for 1904 the court consisted of the following W.A.G Sharp, Dr.Ligon and M.J McNeel.That of 1906 was William H.Hull, Dr.Ligon and Mr.Sharp,for 1908 they were Dr.Ligon,James F.Darnell and Mr.Sharp.and for 1909 the same as 1908 only R.S Hickman replaced Dr.Ligon on our county court.

[illegible] been a valuable business as it put the needs of

No doubt the first colored minister in the NC was a licensed preacher was granted power by our court to perform matrimony in 1906 with the late Joseph H Wilson as his surity.A school book board was established in the county 1904 with the following men J.B Grimes,George P.Moore,J.W Hill,T.A Bruffey.S.B Hannah,W.R Sutton, and W.H Grose as members that sat once each year.The term of school throughout Pocahontas County had been from 4 to 6 months but At Marlinton they decided to have an indipendent school district as they wanted a longer term of school in this fast growing small rural town,but in order to have this the citizens of the county had to vote on it,no doubt this is where our present 9 month term originated.

After the railroad made its appearance up the Greenbrier in 1900 many roads had to bex made leading from our main highways to the railroad at various points throughout the county,the Seebert road was built 1901 this road served the people from Little Levels for many years,or until the trucking age.

The Pocahontas Development Company with main offices in Grefton bought up all the land on which the town of Marlinton now stands and sold the lots off as the town grew.No doubt the first road machinery of heavy nature was bought by our county court in 1901 through Barlow & Moore at Edray.Our present drug store was bought from Harry Echols by S.B Wilson in 1903,this has been a valuable business as it put the needs of

our people and our doctors close at hand.The Durbin Drug Company S.A Wilhide as proprietor made application to the court for a license to operate at Durbin in I907.In I904 the Price Brothers Andrew and Norman owners of the Pocahontas Times received $ 450.00 and The Messenger received $273.00 for printing financial statements and ballots.

One of Pocahontas Countys beloved citizens began his career in I903,this is none other than our own Professor G.D McNeill of Buckeye who was admitted to the bar of Pocahontas County in I903 and in I904 was elected as Prosacuting Attornet of the county but resigned in I906 and joined the Navy,serving for quite sometime gaining much knowledge and experience and upon returning to the county took up ~~xxxx~~ educational work and taught in our public schools throughout the county until I920 when he was elected County Superintendent of schools serving one term and in I925 started teaching in the Marlinton High School serving as principal of this institution,this position he held until I94I when he was employed by Davis & Elkins College as one of its instructors at Elkins.W.Va.G.D as he is known has done much in helping build up a good county government as he emphasizes citizenship,and this is the key to good county government.J.B Grimes having been elected as County Superintendent in I902 and he and B.B Williams served from that time until I920.Following G.D McNeill came Miss Anna

Wallace of Millpoint who served in that capacity until 1928 when she was replaced by Clarence E.Flynn of Arbovale.W.Va. who served until 1936 and he was replaced by our present County Superintendent Eric S.Clutter of Hillsboro,the county unit system coming in 1932 changing this office from elective to that of an appointive one.Our educational system has done much toward our county government in the training and schooling our citizens to become lawyers and county leaders in some way.

The Board Of Equalization and Review of Pocahontas County for 1910 were the following men J.A Reed,G.W Wilson and M.L Beard,this board was set up as a tax adjustment board for the county.Superintendent of Roads for this time were the following B.M Arbogast for Greenbank District,for Edray District James Gibson,Little Levels Ellis McCarty with G.A McNeel as his assistant,G.M Sharp for Huntersville District each had men working under them.

Many of Pocahontas Countys' present lawyers came into prominence about this time as P.T Ward received his commission as Notary Public in 1906,and in 1908 was elected a Justice of the Peace in Greenbank District after this he moved to Marlinton to practice law ,since that time has served as a lawyer of the county and along with his practice is secretary of the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore for this county,serving the farmers when nee

ding money in with which to buy a farm or finance the one they already have.

In 1908 C.J McCarty was elected County Clerk,and he chose as his deputy J.G Tilton.Samuel B.Moore was elected Assessor with L.S Co Cochran and J.W Oliver as his deputies.In that same year E.F Curry was elected County Surveyor.The following men were elected throughout the county,for Greenbank District T.M Kiern Justice of the Peace,and S.T Ruckman Constable.For Little Levels District F.T LaRue and C.M Anderson as Justices, D.M Kinnison Constable.Edray District J.B Hannah and Uriah Bird as Justices and C.H McCoy Adam Moore Constable.Huntersville District Coe Beverage Justice and Upton Sharp Constable.Those obtaining Notary Commissions H.Lee White,Elmer D Burner,J.B Grimes and A.P Edgar.S.R Hogsett was appointed overseer of the poor.The County Estimate for 1908 was $ 33.702.

In the election of 1904 George W Duncan was elected Surveyor of lands,Justices elected D.B McElwee,G.R Curry,T.A Bruffey,J.W Hill, W.R Hannah,A.M Oliver, Constables D.M Kinnison,R.K Burns.In 1900 E.N Moore was elected Sheriffand in 1904 J.S McNeel elected Sheriff with the following deputies W.J Pritchard,Samuel Sheets,E.A Showalter,G.W Mann and W.A Eskridge.

Pocahontas County has two favorite sons in the Sharp twins George and Summers H.Sharp,who were born near Frost this county in I877 working their way through school by working in the lumber camps after completing their schooling George worked himself into a political career so in I908 he was elected as Circuit Clerk for Pocahontas County,serving in that capacity till I920 when he was elected Secretary of State in this capacity he served three terms or till I932.Summers H. Sharp practiced law in the town of Marlinton and in I9I6 he was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Dice as Circuit Judge for Greenbrier, Monroe & Pocahontas and upon completion of this term he was elected as Judge for three consecutive terms or until I936 when he declined to run for judge but offered himself for the office of Governor of the State Of West Virginia on the Republican ticket but was unsuccessful and since that time has been practicing law in Pocahontas and the surrounding counties,along with his law practice he is President of the Pendleton County Bank of Franklin.West Virginia Pendleton County,this bank formally operated in the town of Marlinton as The Farmers And Merchants Bank of Marlinton.

Information-County Records.Courthouse.Marlinton.W.Va.

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41 County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County. #1

Money raised to run our county government from the time of the formation of the county was by levy and this levy had to be voted on and passed favorably by the population of the county the following is a list of the levys' of Pocahontas County from 1880 to 1889 for 1880 $ 5,637.00 ~~XI~~-this was 36 cts on ~~each~~ 100.00 valuation of property of each property holder, 81-8938.00 or a raise in the rate to 55 cts on the hundred dollars, 82- 6607.00 and 40 cts on the hundred, 83-6,183.00 33 cts in 1884 the ~~XI~~ levy was for 6,425.00 and the rate was 35 cts for 85- 6,467.00 and the same rate as the year before for 86- 6,225.00 and the rate cut to 34 cts but this was a low for a few years for in the year of 87- it raised to 7,875.00 and the rate at 40 cts for 88- 6,849. rate 37 cts and for 89 - 5,875.00 the rate 33 1/3 most of the variation was for the care of the unfortunate of the county in one way or another.

It was in the year of 1880 that a committe was appointed to examine the jail at Huntersville and they decided it was not a safe place to hold prisoners so it was decided by the court to send our prisoners to the Greenbrier County jail but after some investigation on the part of our county officials the order was revoked and our jail ordered rebuilt to the lowest responsible bidder and he was Samuel Strong of Northumberland County Virginia for $ 4,440.00 this took place while Levi Gay was Sheriff of this county.

The County Court of Pocahontas County from 1881 to 1897 were as follows for 81 William Curry,Sherman H.Clark and Samuel B.Hannah,this same lot of men served until 1885 when George P.Moore replaced William Curry, but in 1888 C.E Beard replaced Sherman H.Clark,the court of 91 was C.E Beard,S.B Hannah,and George M.Kee.For 92 Amos Barlow replaced S.B Hannah, this body of men served until 97 and this court consisted of the following gentlemen C.E Beard,Amos Barlow and John R.Warwick.

John J Beard who served as clerk of the County Court for quite sometime also served as Circuit Clerk besides his routine work he had to keep up a jury list also record all deeds and in the 80s they recorded as we do today the one doing the selling is the grantor while the one receiving the property is known as the grantee.

The toll house at Academy now Hillsboro having served its purpose for considerable time was sold in 1880 to R.V Hill.At this same time Levi Cay was elected Sheriff,John C.McLaughlin Assessor,George Baxter surveyor of lands,and Daniel Stofer as Prosecuting Attorney.

At each election the question of power to levy was voted on by the people of Pocahontas County,for it was this power that the court had to lay the levy that raised the money that they operated the county on.It was in the year of 1879 that Samuel B.Hannah served as County Superintendent

for a time ,it was about this same time that H.S Rucker a practicing attorney of this county was given permission by the court to erect a law office on the court house lot.

In 1890 the late N.C McNeill was admitted to the bar in Pocahontas County,after practicing some few years as a servant of the people he was elected State Senator in 1898 and served in that capacity one term, after retiring from politics he had a good practice in the town of Marlinton until about 1927when he was compelled to retire on account of ill health.

In 1890 R.B Kerr was chosen superintendent of the Staunton And Parkersburg Turnpike from the Virginia line to the Randolph County line toll gates being erected at various places along this road the tolls so collected to go for the upkeep of this road. It was in 1888 that the court appointed a commission to view a way for a road from the mouth of SwagoCreek across the Buckley Mountain to intersect with the Beaver Creek at Perrys' mill.it was about this time that a way was viewed for a road leading to White Sulphur Springs starting at Burr Valley.

In 1889 M.G Mathews was elected County Superintendent of Schools also a commissioner of schools from each district which were composed of the following men for Huntersville DistrictR P.M Harper, Fdray District He-

ary Barlow, Levels Wm.H Overholt and for Greenbank DistrictJ.F Patterson at the same time the county voted on the length of school term we were to have for 4 months 52 votes ,for the 6 month term 50 votes so you can readily see that our people of the 80s were for a short efficient term of school thereby reducing the cost of labor by using their children.

About 1890 John E.Campbell editor of The Pocahontas Times received $ 45.00 for all county printing for the period of one year.In 1890 J.H Patterson was elected clerk of the Circuit Court the late S.L Brown serving as County Clerk.

No doubt our wildlife protection started about 1890 when the late John T.McGraw and the West Virginia And Pittsburgh Railroad Company asked that Williams River and all its' tributaries be set aside as a bird and game refuge,this is one of Pocahontas Countys' finest and best hunting grounds,since that time the timber has been cut and a greater part of this wooded section is in our National Forest and is known far and near as the sportsmens paradise.

From 1870 up to 1900 we found many private homes serving the traveling public as Hotels these being on the main highways from one end of the county to the other and one of these hotels happened to be licensed 1895 and by the way this one in particular means much to this writer as

this license was issued to the late Joseph S.Smith residing midway between Hillsboro and Marlinton on Smith Hill,this hotel had a wide patronage and served the traveling public that traveled by horse and buggy, this hotel was operated for a number of years and was known by the traveling public as a home of hospitality and prayer.

It was in 1891 that the question arose about the removal of the county seat from Huntersville to the historic spot known in the days of the pioneer as Marlin Bottom and later named Marlinton,this action was started by a petition signed by 697 qualified voters,the present site of the Court House was placed on the lands of the late Andrew Mclaughlin farm but owned in 1891 by John T.McGraw and sold to the county by the Pocahontas © county Development Company,this era was known as the boom of what once was Marlins Bottom,and by this doing the Chesapeake And Ohio Rail-Road was induced to penetrate our county up the Greenbrier from Ronceverte to Durbin.Before action was taken it was voted on by the citizens of the county,the voting places designated throughout the county were as follows, and the ones holding these elections also,Academy(now Hillsboro)W.W Beard, Johny B.Kinnison and George S.McNeel.Split Rock R.S Varner,James Herold and F.P Vandevort.

Travelers Repose,C.W Gum,A.M.V Arbogast,and J.L Arbogast.

Greenbank- Adam Arbogast,J.S Wooddell,and C.A Lightner.

Dunmore-- J.K Taylor,B.F McElwee and G.W Arbogast.

Frost--Andrew Herold,I.B Moore and C.O.W Sharp.

Huntersville--Sheldon Moore,D.A Fisher and W.L Harper.

Edray--A.T Moore,Henry Barlow and William Sharp.

Buckeye-R.E Overholt,W.H McClintic and William C McNeill.These men held an election and the results of this election caused Pocahontas County to develop into one of West Virginiasg greatest industrial counties,all because of our public spirited future thinking citizens,for if the county seat had not been changed making an industrial center no doubt we would not have enjoyed the Rail Road for years to come,but right after the county seat was moved and Marlinton began to build up along came the R.R furnishing us communication with the outside world and furnishing us an outlet for our many products but mainly lumber,this era was an industrial and expansive one.

INFORMATION-County Records.Court House.Marlinton.W.Va.

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County Government Samuel G.Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

The vote having carried in the election of 1891 to remove the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton the vote stood for removal 940 against removal 425, immediately plans were made for a new court house and jail at the new county seat, but they continued to hold court at Huntersville while new quarters were being built, all records remaining at Huntersville, this special election to determine whether the county seat should be moved co st Pocahontas County $ 1194.60. Immediately plans were made to start the construction of our present court house and jail, and plans were submitted by The Manley Manufacturing Company of Dalton Georgia for our present court house but in the meantime it was thought best to erect a temporary court house at Marlinton so it was built 1892 and moved into in 1893. The stone or masonry work was done by Albert Gunther the building rock coming from the Jerico and Price Hill sections which were so famous for their building rock at that time. M.F Giesey was the architect and inspector of the stone work. Our fire proof vault was bought from The Office Specialty Company of Rochester New York and installed by their representative along with the contractors.

Much of the time of the court at that time was spent holding special elections pertaining to removal or in letting contracts for construction of our present set of County buildings of which the citizens of Pocahontas are proud and justly so as wer have one of the best court houses that

...s built at that time.The jail having been rebuilt in recent years until today we have one of the best jails in West Virginia,as it is modern in every respect and one that is safe and used for federal prisoners from other sections of the state.After the records had been removed from Huntersville it was deemed advisable by our County Court to sell this property as we had no further use of it so the late L.M McClintic was appointed by the court as a special commissioner to sell this property so in 1894 it was offered for sale the high bidder being R.S Turk for $ 825.00 thus ending county ownership at the old county seat.

No doubt the first bowling alley ever to operate in Pocahontas County was operated in 1894 by A.C Gunther at Marlinton the license being issued by the county court.

Our County Clerks and Circuit Clerks having operated together up to this time in the same office were seperated in 1893 each having seperate quarters.No doubt Dr.J.W Price was the first member of the board of health of Pocahontas County.Pocahontas Countys' first drug store was licensed by the county court in 1893 the license were issued to Cunningham And Smith.

During the time the county owned and operated a poor farm near Hillsboro different men rented it for prices ranging from $ 150.00 to $ 250. they in turn were paidby the county from $ 30.00 to $ 40.00 for each pauper

fed each month,this farm having served a noble service during its' county ownership.It was in 1896 that the Pocahontas Telephone Company received permission from the county court to set their poles along the then county roads,this was the beginning of what might be called the contact period of this county for from this grew lines over the greater part of Pocahontas.It was in 1897 that our present Justice Of The Peace T.S McNeel was admitted to the bar in Pocahontas County,after serving as a lawyer for his fellow countymen he was elected Prosecuting Attorney at the beginning of the Nineteenth century and since that time has served as a Justice from Idray District for a number of years.

In 1892 the late Andrew G.Price was admitted to the bar in Pocahontas County,he having graduated from West Virginia University,he served his county for a number of years as a lawyer of renoun,he being the son of one of the pioneers that settled at Marlins Bottom,he was editor of the Pocahontas Times for a number of years,this paper is now being edited by his brother C.W Price,the only other paper published in the county was the Messenger published by S.B Scott Jr. and these papers one or the other printed our election ballots at that time.

The annual county levy was about the same until 1894 when the court house was built but at this time the levy was.80cts on each 100.00 valuation

greater part of this going for the new buildings.In 1892 there were 1700 legal voters in the county.

The following men served this county as Sheriff J.C Arbogast, M.J McNeel,and R.W Hill.Those serving as assessors were L.H Moore, 1884,C.C Arbogast 1888. L.M McClintic elected Prosecuting attorney in 1888.Wm.Siple was the first janitor of our present court house.All the above were in the eighties and ninetys.

Information.County Records.Court House.Marlinton.W.Va.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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ty Government. Samuel G. Smith Hillsboro. W.Va. Pocahontas Co. # I

Pocahontas County has had many toll gates and bridges throughout county, the toll charged at toll bridges was for one horse IO cts, for a vehicle and a horse I5 cts, a vehicle and two horses 20 cts and 5 cts for each additional horse to the vehicle and the rate for stock was IO cts per score. The rate to our own county citizens was cheaper than to outside travelers. Some of these old toll houses having served their day were sold and toll collected elsewhere as was the case of the one at Academy which was offered for sale in I873. In I874 J.D Price was appointed toll gatherer at Marlinbottom bridge he was to receive 25 % for his services the remainder to be turned over to the county, he collected $ 70.00 in seven months. Mail carriers had a special rate of $ 6.00 per anum.

Our present capitation tax was started about I873 or 74. In I874 it was deemed advisable by the court to build two clerks offices and repair the court house and it was put out to the lowest bidder which was George H. Moffett at $ 2.000.00. Much of the time spent by our county court was to appoint surveyors of roads throughout the county and a list of these gentlemen selected I876 are the following for district # I now known as Greenbank District James H. Galford, Claibourne ~~XXXXXX~~, Ashford, George W. Siple, James D. Kerr, Charles B. Collins, Warwick Hudson, Samuel I. Sutton, John E. Gum, Charles C. Burner, Cyrus Tallman, Brown Arbogast, George Beverage,. For District

NTY GOVIRNMENT. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

2 or Edray District of today A. D Amiss, George Gibson, Samuel B. Moore hn B, Hannah, John W. Lyle, Wm E. Johnson, Benjamin Wilfong, Isaac Shinaberry, and John Ligon. For District # 3 or Huntersville District George H. McLaughlin, Uriah Bird, Anderson Dilley, W.H Corbitt, Josiah Dilley, Amos Curry, Charles W. Sharp, Abraham Sharp, I Brown Moore, Preston Harper, Henry Sharp, Wm Kelley, Lucas Moore, Wm F. Perry, Amos Barlow and John Burr. For district #4 or Little Levels Joseph S. Smith, Wm O. McCoy, Henry Clark, R.W Hill, D.A Peck, Peter Hill, Abraham Hayes, Adam Pullin, Thomas F. Callison, Wm Callison, Abraham Edmiston.

The overseers of the poor at that time were Uriah Hevener, Joseph Dilley, Andrew Dilley and George Edmiston. With H.P McLaughlin as clerk for this board of overseers.

The salaries of the county officials of 1875 were Sheriff and Jailor William L. McNeel $ 225.00 Wm L. Arbogast commissioner of revinue $ 350.00 William Curry Circuit and County Clerk $ 250.00, John Ligon was president of the County Court with William Baxter, Frances Dever, William L. Brown, John G. Beard and Isaac McNeel other commissioners any three of them could act and transact the routine business that came before the court each month. They received from $ 28 to $ 30.00 a year. The court for 1877 was the following Isaac McNeel, James Lockridge, John G. Beard, Davis C. Kinnison, William Baxter, and Henry A. Yeager

William H.Cackley was elected Sheriff inX I876 for a 4 year term starting January I.I877 with Isaac McNeel and Richard Hill as his deputies..The county levy for I873 was $ 4,475.00 for 74 was for $ 4,204.00 75 for $ 4.329.00 for 76 $ 4,033.00 for 77 $ 3,98I.52 for 78 $ 4,033.86 all this had been raised at the rate of 24 cents per I00.00 valuation but the levy for I879 was considerable higher $ 5,723.9I the rate had to be increased to 36 cents in order to meet this raise.From all records available and all information obtainable it was almost impossible to get the land of the county assessed without considerable dissatisfaction so under an act of the legislature of I872 and 73 a special Assessor was appointed to reassess the dands throughout the county.From all records available it appears there was more dissatisfaction in the Little Levels than any other section of the county.To this task they appointed John W.Warwick but after he had completed his work about all the court got done was to try and make adjustments and lower the value of farm lands throughout the county.

In the year I875 Free Mason Lodge was formed at Huntersville and given a room in the Court House,also the Huntersville Grange another organization was given quarters in the Court House.These and many others were the accommodations that the citizens of Pocahontas County enjoyed at the expense of the county but not added expense.It was in I873 that the Wash-

...n,Cincinnati & St.Lewis R.R wanted Pocahontas County to subscribe ...50.000.00 capital stock but the court would not act only after the people of the county had voted on it so it was tabled for the time being to be disposed of at a later date.

Rev.M.D Dunlap served as County Superintendent for a shott time in 1875 until another could be appointed.

In 1879 one of Pocahontas Countys long talked of problems was solved for it was in that year that the county purchased a poor farm from Robert G.Miller near Hillsboro containing 230 acres for which the county paid $ 4.300.00,this farm having many small dwellings used by the slaves of the former owner made it a very desirable farm to take care of the less fortunate of Pocahontas County.This poor farm was operated by the county and accommodated many people during the time it was operated as such but along about 1920 the county officials began to talk of disposing of this farm and moving the paupers to Marlinton to be cared for by the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital ,so in 1922 the farm was disposed of and the inmates moved to Marlinton.Thus the passing of the only farm of the kind in Pocahontas County,but to this day it is the opinion of a great many of the citizens of the county that we should have kept this farm to take care of the dependants of Pocahontas County.A poor farm had been up for discussion by

the people of the county every since the formation of the county.

One of Pocahontas Countys' beloved servants begun his career as far as service to his county was concerned in 1876 this was Squire L. Brown who in 1876 was elected constable from the Greenbank District after serving his term as constable he was elected deputy clerk for John G.Beard then clerk of the county court,after serving his county in that capacity for some time and in 1884 offered himself as candidate for the Clerk Of The County Court and was elected,to this office he was elected every six years thereafter save for one term when he was replaced about 1906 by the late C.J McCarty .Mr Brown having served the people of Pocahontas for a period of approximately 40 years the longest service that any citizen so far has attained.His long career as a county official is a living memory to the ones he served.Squire L.Brown was born August 22 1851 at Greenbank and departed this life June 14,1934 thus the passing of Pocahontas Countys' oldest county official so far as service is concerned.Mr.Brown served as clerk at Huntersville long before the county seat was moved to Marlinton.It was his delight to serve his fellow men. Mr.Brown contributed much to the growth of our county government in making it effecient as far as he could.

He was replaced by our present County Clerk Moody Kincaid.

West Virginia Writers' Project

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C.W Price. Marlinton.W.Va.

I County Government. Samuel G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

During the Civil War our county government ceased to operate as it was almost impossible to preserve the county records and during the war the records were out of the courthouse as much as four years and today these old books show the stain of buckwheat straw as they were hidden in a buckwheat straw rick for quite sometime and were as far away as Alleghany County Virginia and during the battle of Droop Mountain they were hid near Lobelia which is in the Western part of Pocahontas County. William Curry was the clerk at the outbreak of the war so it was by his faithfullness and loyalty to his county and its government officials that these records were preserved and stand today as a memorial to those old gentlemen that labored so faithfully that we might have county government founded ~~founded~~ by true Americans that has stood the test for these many years.

George P. Moore was commissioned Post Master at Edray during the war he being one of the prominent citizens in our county Government for many years previous .

In Meade Township the following men were chosen, Supervisor Adam Nottingham, B.A Arbogast township clerk, Adam Nottingham Justice, B.N Arbogast was chosen Consteble, Harvey Nottingham Treasurer, Addison Ervine Overseer of the Poor, with Martin C Dilley and Andrew Wanless as inspectors of ele-

ens for the township of Meade.

Charles Morrison was chosen Supervisor for the Township of Union with B.B Garvey overseer of the poor,Abraham Hill Treasurer,Morgan Anderson Justice of the Peace and James F Hill Constable with Jacob McCarty and Jacob W.Smith as inspectors of elections for Meade Township.This work having been completed the Supervisors turned to the appointment of surveyors of roads for the various townships and the making of a list of men to be drawn as jurors this being completed they adjourned to meet at Edray onTuesday the 7 th day of November 1865.And when this time rolled around you found those present were Adam XXXXXXX,Nottingham,Pres.Jonathan McNeill, and Charles Morrison this being a quorum they went about transacting such business that might come before such a body at this meeting an election was ordered held and the following men were chosen for office serving the entire county as they do today,Joseph A Thompson was elected Prosacuting Attorney,Daniel Kellison as surveyor of lands,Robert Gay as Recorder,William B Hannah assessor and Robert Gay was also chosen as clerk of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas County. John T Wanless was elected Sheriff,L.H Sharp Commissioner of Schools,and Geo. P Moore elected as County Superintendant of Schools,at this time a judge had to be chosen for the ninth judicial circuit of which Pocahontas was a part N.Harrison was chosen as judge,also a senator had to be chosen from the same

senatorial district to this office Henry W Mathews was chosen to rep-
resent the ninth senatorial district.George P Moore resigned as County
Superintendent of schools and Robert P Williams was chosen to fill the
vacancy.It was at this time that the county officials decided to repair
the Courthouse and Jail so it was deemed advisable to appoint a man to
take bids and to the lowest responsible bidder a contract would be awa-
rded to this task they placed Amos Barlow,and it was decided that they
hold court at Huntersville instead of at Edray to which they all agreed.

It was in the year of 1865 that a license was issued to James A
Price to open a hotel at Marlins Bottom which in later years became the
County seat of Pocahontas County.At this time the revinue of the county
was very low as thus far they had not been able to lay the county levy
and they had borrowed all the money that was available from individuals
to meet current expenses and to furnish stationery and books to the clerk
for the proceedings of the court to be recorded.The county subscribed
$ 10.000.00 capitol stock in the Monongahela-and Lewisburg Rail Road with
the understanding that the Railroad must pass through the county at cer-
tain points this was ratified by a 3/5 majority of the voters of the coun-
ty and it was at this meeting that they resolved to have their next meet-
ing at Huntersville July I.1865 and it was at this meeting in 66 that the
first talk was made about removing the county seat from Huntersville which

erialized near the end of the eighteenth century. This period thus far since the close of the war is known as the reconstruction period of Pocahontas County as much had to be done to make up for the time lost during the war when our county government ceased to function which was a grave matter to the many citizens of the county especially at that particular time when the county was so badly torn up by the war that had raged within its borders for over three years leaving many homeless and poverty stricken, children fatherless and the county almost bankrupt and out of gear so to speak as they had to start almost like they did at the very beginning of our county government at the time of the formation of the county.

X Information- Court Records.Marlinton.W.Va.
C.W Price. Marlinton.W.Va.

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...I County Government.Samuel G Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County. # I

Pocahontas County has been represented in the Legislature by the following men Benoni Griffin 1863-64 Jacob McCarty 1867,Samuel Gibson 1869,Nathan G.Barlow 1870,John M.Lightner 1872,William J.Wooddell 1873-75, George W.Siple 1877,George H.Moffett 1879-81,Henry A.Yeager 1883-87,I.B Moore 1891-96,M.J McNeel 1897.Dr.J.P Moomau 1893-95-1903,J.W Price 1905, Davis L.Barlow 1907,L.M McClintic 1901,A.D Williams 1909,1911-23 by J.A McLaughlin,George W.Wilson 1913,B.M Yeager 1915-17,Harry Blackhurst 1919, E.N Moore 1921,1925-33 by F.R Hill,Dr.George F.Hull 1927-29.William C.Gardner 1931,Stanley J.Rexrode 1935,June McElwee from 1937 to 41.

In the state senate Pocahontas County has been represented by the following men Samuel Young 1863-64-67-70,William McNeel 1881-83,N.C McNeill 1897-99,Fred C.Allen 1937-41,the time in between these dates we were served by men from some other county laying within the bounds of our district but as the dates will confirm Pocahontas has only had the honor of electing four men to the state ~~X~~senate up to the present time.

Pocahontas County has the honor and destinction of having produced one man that was elected to the House of Delegates that was chosen Speaker of the House in our lower branch of representatives he being George H.Moffett and some of the same blood ~~XXXX~~ as the Moffetts that served as Clerk of our county Court in our first county government.

After the war the cost of our county government gradually rose to a high figure for 1870 it took $ 4,981.00 in 1871 $ 5,389.00 and 1872 $ 4,444.00 to meet this ever rising cost meant more work for our county officials responsible for our county government. Much of the money spent by the county in the 18th. century was spent on wolf and fox scalps as this being a mountainous and wooded section these animals had many dens in these they raised their young and preyed on the stock and poultry of our pioneer farmers and just about cleaned them out until a bounty was put on them and then the livestock industry began to grow and today the livestock industry is the leading industry of Pocahontas County and we are very thankful to these old gentlemen that put the bounty on these varments that were so detramental to what later grew to be our leading industry. These bounties were paid out of county funds but authorized by our county courts and boards of supervisors. It was in 1870 that a malady struck many flocks of sheep in Union Township and the sheep raisers and producers of the county went to the board of Supervisors and had a ban put on the movement of sheep from that section and had all sick and dead animals burned to check the spread of this disease. No sheep were allowed moved out of this area until 1871.

At an election held in 1872 we got some new faces in our county officials as William Curry was elected Circuit Clerk, William L. McNeel

Sheriff of Pocahontas County,O.A Stofer Commonwealth attorney,W.F Arbogast Assessor,William H.Overholt surveyor of lands,and our circuit judge was R.F Dennis.The election of 1870 was as follows Sheriff S.L Gibson, Clerk of Circuit Court and recorder Robert T.Gay,Pros.Attorney William Rucker,Surveyor George Baxter,Assessor William E.Johnson,and N.G Barlow elected clerk of the board of supervisors for Pocahontas County with Peter L.Curry serving also as clerk to that body for quite sometime. C.J Stulting having been elected superintendent of Schools of the county.

Many of the old wooden gates that swung across our county roads during the 18th century were a authorized by our County Courts and the Boards of Supervisors but these gates having served their purpose in their day were gradually done away with until today the only gates to be found within the borders of the county are on our less used secondary roads.The county officials having seen the mistake of having these gates across our highways have had them done away with to a very great degree until today with the automobile as the usual mode of travel can travel in all parts of our county without meeting up with these obstacles (the old wooden gate).And by so doing our travel has been increased the distance shortened and contact made much easier all because our county officials had these gates done away with.

At the close of the war when our county government was having such a hard time to exist they had to take all sorts of ways of saving money and one way they did this was to send back to their native county anyone that got within our borders and became dependant or had to have assistance from the county, these charges usually were sent to what is our sister or mother state old Virginia as she was our nearest populated area. This was all brought about bu our Overseers of the poor with the assistance of our county officials namely our board of supervisors.

At this time the question was talked of and voted on of forming a new state and in 1871 the vote stood for ratification of the Constitution of W.Va. (1863) 349 against 57 and in 1872 the vote was for ratification of the amendment 453 and against 285. The board of supervisors of 1871 were Benjamin A.Arbogast, Josiah T.Hogsett, Allen T.Moore and Richard Hill, with Moore serving from Lincoln Township, Hogsett from Grant, Hill of Union and Arbogast of Meade with Peter L.Curry as their clerk. The Supervisors of 1872 were P.D Carter, William Hogsett and William H Hull.

It was in the year of 1872 that road supervisors from each township and precinct were instructed by the Board Of Supervisors to call out men to work on the various roads of the county they called this warning men out to work the roads this was done usually twice yearly in the spring and in

the fall,all able bodied men were given a call and had to report out on a certain road at a certain time to work under men chosen by the Board of Supervisors.

It was in 1872 that a dispute was raised by Greenbrier County about our county line so our Board Of Supervisors appointed a commission to meet a delegation appointed by Greenbrier County and they try to establish a true and permanent boundary between the two counties,and to that commission our board appointed the following men Allen Coalter, George Baxter,and S.B Loury Jr, these men met with the ones selected by Greenbrier and their findings and recommondations were filed in our Clerks office and a copy was sent to the Board Of Supervisors of Greenbrier to be filed in their county records so thst this dispute would be settled for all times, but again in 1875 this line was again brought up before our county officials and another commission was appointed to meet with a delegation from Greenbrier County to try and establish our county line,they met and made their report back to their respective counties that they represented in hopes that this would make a permanent line between Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties.

Shortly after 1870 our county went through another change as we received entirely a new set of county officials as the county ceased to

be run by a board of Supervisors but went back to the County Court like it was first run by,this court composed of the following John Ligon Pres,Wm. Baxter,John G.Beard,O.H McMorrow ~~XXX~~ Francis Dever and William Brown,these men all being Justices were classified to perform their duties in court for the years of 1873,74,75 and 76 two of these men presided over the court at which ever term of court they were designated to hold,these dates having ~~XXX~~ been worked out by the County Court.

Attorneys of this section admitted to practice at the bar of Pocahontas Court were the following John A.McNeel,George H.Moffett,Daniel A.Stofer, and John M.Lightner these men were kept busy most of the time as much legal matters were to be disposed of along about this time.

Information.County Records.Court House.Marlinton.W.Va.

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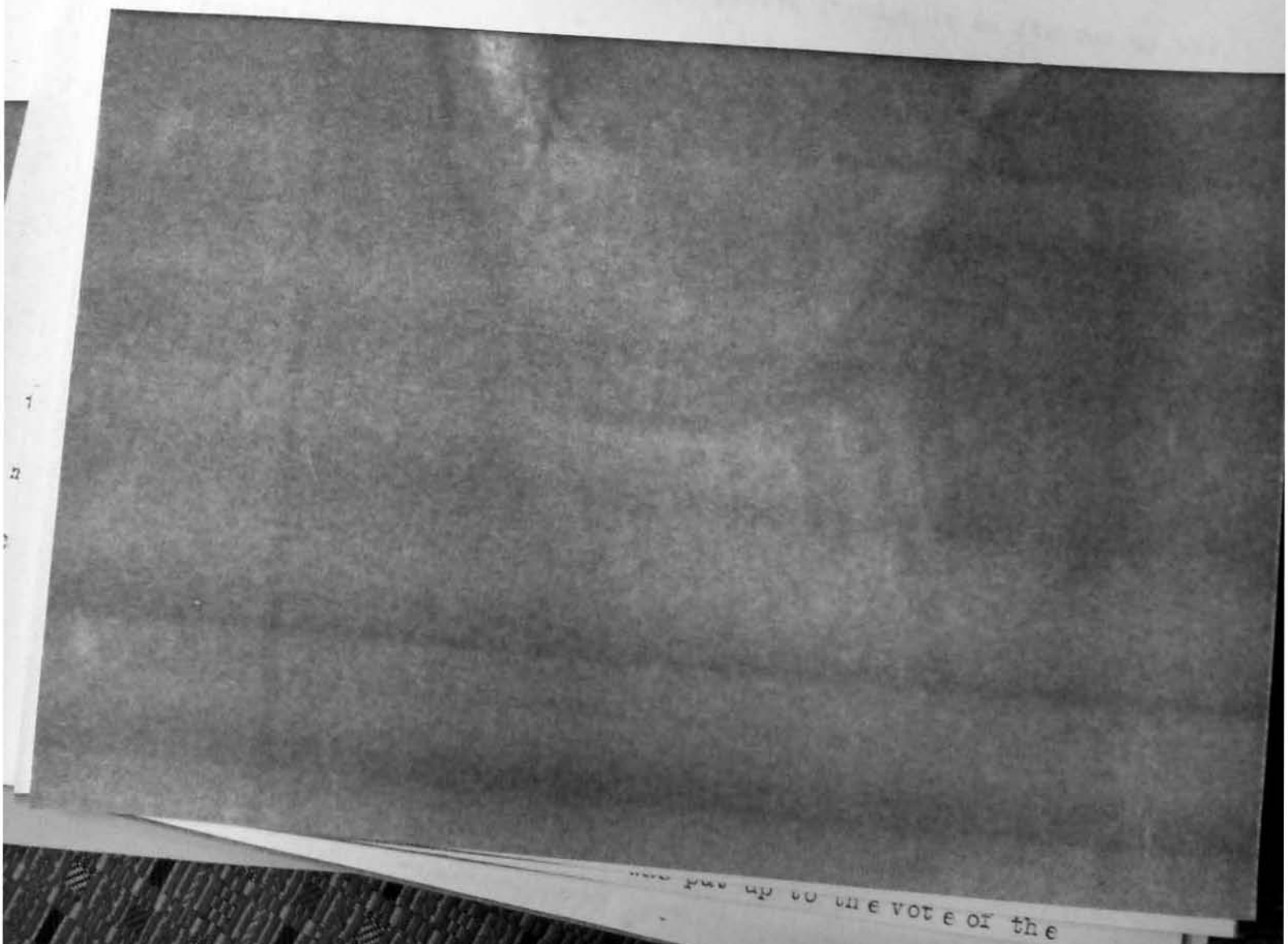

41 County Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

When the War was over and the new officials of our county govern- had taken over and the townships established instead of districts Grant township was our present Huntersville District,Lincoln was what is now Id- ray District,Union was what is known as Little Levels today,Meade Township was that portion of Pocahontas County that is known as Greenbank District. The county seat was in Grant Township,but in later years it was moved to Lincoln Township at Marlins Bottom now Marlinton and the largest town in the county,partly due to it being the seat of justice and partly due to the Chasopeak and Ohio Rail Road that passes through it on its run up the Greenbrier from Ronceverte to Durbin.

Just after the Civil War an act of the legislature passed by that body Febuary 21.1866 requiring the boards of all the counties of the state to appoint a commissioner to reassess the county to this task they appointed William E.Johnson of Lincoln Township.After the land had been assessed many of our land owners complained to the board of supervisors and often had their taxes lowered by reducing the valuation as many homes and farm buildings had been burned during the war and their property damaged in general so this meant more work for our county officials in making adjustments and trying to get things equalized as much as they possibly could.In performing his dutics as Assessor of the county Johnson received $ 299.58 and during the rounds

in assessing the county he had to gather other data such as births and deaths.In 1867 the assessed valuation of the county was $ 10.551.70 of this the assessor received 3% this was his pay.

The first levy layed from the start of the war until after the close was June 1867 and was for $ 3,758.65 much of which was for expense of repairing the court house and jail at the close of the war,The levy of 1868 was for $ 4.473.54 the cost of government still rising as more roads were being built throughout the county all this fell on the shoulders of the board of supervisors to pass on and they in turn turned the matter over to the many surveyors of roads for establishment or rerouting as the case might be.At this time our state government thought it best to have each county report its debts and what it would take to pay current expenses and clear up the back indebtidness,which was done and it was found that it would take $ 4.390.00 to accomplish this end.It was about this time that the townships were cut up into precints of which we still have today as it was thought best to have our county government operating as near as many of her citizens as possible as so in the formation of the County in 18 21 as it always has been the closer the government is to her people the more efficient our government can operate in both state and county.

The question again arose about removing the county seat from Huntersville and so in the election of 1866 it was put up to the vote of the

COUNTY GOVIRNMENT. S.G.S. Pocahontas County. Page 3.....

people, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the vote was for removal 85 against 83 the subject was then tabled until the following year 1867 and this time the vote stood for removal 55 against 110 this settled the matter for the time. As the county was greatly in need of revenue it was decided that they would advertise from the time of this meeting in December until March for responsible men to bid on taking the bridge across the Greenbrier River at Marlins Bottom over making a toll bridge out of same and with the money taken in as toll keep the bridge up also a part of the Marlins Bottom Lewisburg Turnpike, this repair to come from the funds collected at the toll bridge.

To repair the court house and jail required 600.00 and the work was done by William Curry with some outside help. Upon the resignition of George P. Moore in 67 Samuel Buzzard was chosen as clerk for the board of supervisors and in 68 was chosen Assessor as A. G Adkison who was elected Assessor did not qualify.

With James A Price operating a hotel at Marlins Bottom, Andrew McLaughlin a land owner of that same section obtained a license in 1869 to operate a hotel also. It was about this same time that many license were obtained to sell liquors in private homes and other establishments throughout the county (this was known as the days of the Pigs ear) in the liquor trade

in Pocahontas County.

It was about 1867 that the question arose about the county subscribing $ 50.000.00 in capitol stock of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad that was operating at that time at the lower end of the Greenbrier River at Ronceverte.The voters of this county voted against it at that time but again in 1868 the question was again raised but like before was voted down by the voters of the county,but the future thinking citizens of the county did not give up the struggle and so about 1900 saw the C & O operating up the Greenbrier,this was brought about by our county government working on it for a number of years finally accomplishing what they had tried to do for over a quarter of a century.With the coming of the C & O in later years our county government gained in many ways,in taxation,traveling conveyance for her population,was a mode of transportation for our many commodoties produced within our borders,so the coming of the R up the Greenbrier was brought about by our pioneer county government ey having been defeated in their efforts time and time again but these used their untiring efforts at that time that we here in Pocahontas ty today might enjoy and appreciate the efforts put forth by our forcounty leaders that helped establish a county government that has ht us gradually upward for over a century,they fought a good fight

establishing our county government.

The supervisors of 1866 were Adam Nottingham, Reuben Buzzard, Wm.B Hannah and Charles Morrison they received 2.00 for each day spent in transacting routine business, such as the salaries of various office holders determining their duties etc. And today our county government is run on much the same plan as it was founded on over a century ago by our deep thinking public spirited men.

It was about 1868 that the toll bridge was first put into use in Pocahontas County, having served its purpose for a number of years or up to the first part of the nineteenth century when they were done away with by our county courts, they having served their day in helping maintain themselves and part of our main highways, they being brought about by our county government and were done away with by the same body.

Information. County Records. Courthouse. Marlinton. W. Va.

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Nancy A McNeill. Buckeye. W. Va.

County Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

It was in 1862 that the first Sheriff of Pocahontas County died and so the county mourned the death of one of our pioneers in county Government Jonathan Jordan.It was about that time that Jacob Kinnison qualified as deputy sheriff for Isaac McNeel.

At the outbreak of the war the inhabitants of the county had to bear many hardships and often suffer misery as the warfare was very barbarious and distructive as many buildings were burned and all sorts of property was damaged or molested,The court had to meet in the old Presbyterian Church at Huntersville as the court house had been set on fire but the records were saved and taken in hiding for their preservation.During the war when all able bodied men were in military service supplies were hard to get and at very high prices especially clothing so it fell on the county court to try and relieve the situation by appointing an agent to purchase cotton yarn and cotton cloth to be used in clothing the families of the soldiers and of poor people to this task they appointed Col.Paul McNeel and gave him the power to use as high as 50.000.00 in relieving the situation as winter was approaching and the populace needed clothing so they had to act in haste lest the lives of people of Pocahontas County be endangered. Each family payed cash for the yarn and the cloth except the less fortunate and to these it was rationed to meet their necessities.During the war it

impossible for the court to lay and collect a levy to meet current expenses so the court asked all the acting justices all over the county to meet with them to consider the issuing and selling of bonds they were to be $25.50 and $100.00 bonds and were to be offered for sale by the Sheriff at July term of court 1864,the sheriff having posted notices over the county to that affect.The court did not meet regularly during the war as only business of urgent nature was passed on and then as circumstances would permit.

Uriah Hevener was chosen Sheriff of Pocahontas County May 26 1864 his tenure of office starting January I 1865.

At this time it was very hard to get supplies to this section as most of them could only be gotten at Millboro Depot or points farther away and in the distribution of salt after it had been allotted each family had to agree to give one fifth of his allottment and upon arrival at places of distribution had to pay $ 5.00 a hundred this meant a very high price for salt but was the only way of obtaining it.And a greater part of the responsibility rested on the hands of the County Court, as the most of the population was dependant on it.

It was about this time that the court made a survey and found that an area of the county 32 by 35 miles was without the services of a physician and so they petitioned that Dr. Charles E Brown be detailed from military serv-

for the purpose of practicing in Huntersville then the county seat of Pocahontas County.

In 1865 Pocahontas was in the ninth Judicial Circuit composed of Pocahontas,Greenbrier,Monroe and McDowell with Nathaniel Harrison as the judge and it was he that appointed Robert Gay Recorder of Pocahontas Co.

During the war no levy was layed as all the able bodied men of the county were in military service and the ones at home were unable to pay therefore no levy was layed.

It was in 1841-1842 when the honorable John Grimes represented Pocahontas County in the Virginia Legislature by a direct appeal ~~XX~~ from the people of the county and it was upon his motion that charters were granted for three Academys in Pocahontas County Hillsboro,Huntersville and Greenbank. The people of the county were hilarious over the fact that they were going to have these Academys and that higher branches of learning could be taught.

The period that followed after the Civil War might be called the reconstruction period of Pocahontas County as the county was very much torn up as West Virginia you might say was the dividing line between the North and the South therefore Pocahontas County was very much torn up in many different ways and this was especially true in her county government for at close of the war the former county officials were ousted and a new set

officials took over,thereby disrupting the county government and by so doing the efforts of our county officials from the time of first settlement up the outbreak of the war was sacrificed.About the close of the war the county officials were worked very hard as they did not function during the war and many estates had to be settled up when the war closed as many had died and others had been killed upon the fields of battle each side fighting for what they thought was right.

At the close of the war the entire county government was reorganized and starting at this time it was run by a board of supervisors instead of the County Court it was run by in former years,the first meeting of this body was held by a temporary board held at Edray September 24 1865 served from their respective townships as it was called at this time instead of Districts.Peter Grimes was serving from ~~XXXXXX~~ Grant township,George W McKeever for the township of Lincoln and B.N Arbogast from the township of Meade and on motion of a member of that body Peter Grimes was chosen president of that body with George P Moore as temporary clerk.After this a special election was held and James Wanless was chosen county treasurer,Reuben Buzzard was chosen supervisor of Grant Township,Henry H Grimes elected clerk for the township of Grant,L.A Sharp elected treasurer of that township and Daniel McCarty for Justice of the peace,Peter H Grimes as Constable and Peter Buzzard overseer of

the poor for Grant Township.Jonathan G McNeill was chosen supervisor for Lincoln Township with A.G Adkison clerk,William Gibson overseer of the poor,John Sharp treasurer,Nathan G Barlow Justice,John J Gay Constable, the Township of Meade was not recorded at the time but after some controversey its choice of county officials were recorded but at a later date.

The period that followed the Civil War was a very dark one not only to the citizens of the county but to our county officials as everything that could be destroyed was destroyed and so many people had died or were killed during the war and their property had to ba appraised and an administrator be appointed by the county to settle up the estate,the overseers of the poor to find homes for orphan and dependant childred as many homes were completely broken up as a result of the war.

Information.County Records,Marlinton.W.Va.
Nancy A McNeill,Buckeye,W.Va. Age 89 years)